

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form* (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Northwestern Branch, National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers Historic District

other names/site number National Soldiers Home Historic District

2. Location

street & number 5000 West National Avenue ☐ not for publication

city or town Milwaukee (roughly bounded by National Avenue, Blue Mound Road, Miller Park Stadium, 43rd Street, and the 56th Street neighborhood of West Allis, WI) ☐ vicinity

state Wisconsin code WI county Milwaukee code 079 zip code 53295

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, I hereby certify that this ☒ nomination
☐ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of
Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property
☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant
☒ nationally ☐ statewide ☐ locally. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Kareem R. Dupak
Signature of certifying official/Title

Federal (Historic) Preservation Officer 1/27/2005

Date

Department of Veterans Affairs

State or Federal Agency or Tribal government

In my opinion, the property ☒ meets ☐ does not meet the National Register criteria. (☐ See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Michael J. Stearns, SHPO
Signature of commenting official/Title

Date

State Historical Society of Wisconsin

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

☐ entered in the National Register.

☐ See continuation sheet.

☐ determined eligible for the
National Register

☐ See continuation sheet.

☐ determined not eligible for the
National Register.

☐ removed from the National
Register.

☐ other, (explain) _____

**Wisconsin Historical Society
Division of Historic Preservation
STATE REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CERTIFICATION FORM**

Nominated Property: Northwestern Branch, National Home for Disabled
Volunteer Soldiers Historic District

Property Address: 5000 W. National Avenue

City or Town: Milwaukee

County: Milwaukee

REVIEW BOARD EVALUATION

Historic Preservation Review Board Date: April 28, 2006

- ☒ Nomination meets the criteria and is adequately documented
- ☐ Nomination meets the criteria, but is not adequately documented
- ☐ Nomination is adequately documented, but does not meet the criteria

Kelly A. Jackson Kelly
Chair of Historic Preservation Review Board

4/28/06
Date

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated officer under s. 44.32, Wis. Stats., I hereby certify that this ☒ nomination, ☐ interim listing, or ☐ petition for removal (check one) meet the documentation standards of the Wisconsin State Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in s. 44.36(2) Wis. Stats., and that this property or district is hereby:

- ☒ Listed in Wisconsin State Register of Historic Places
- ☐ An interim listing in the Wisconsin State Register of Historic Places
- ☐ Removed from the State Register of Historic Places

Michael J. Peterson
State Historic Preservation Officer

4/28/06
Date

National Soldiers Home Historic District
Name of Property

Milwaukee, Wisconsin
County and State

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- ☐ private
☐ public-local
☐ public-State
☒ public-Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- ☐ building(s)
☒ district
☐ site
☐ structure
☐ object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
41	5	buildings
4	1	sites
		structures
3	0	objects
48	6	Total

Name of related multiple property listing

(Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

2

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Domestic/Institutional Housing

Health Care/Hospital

Health Care/Rest Home

Funerary/Cemetery

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Health Care/Rest Home

Funerary/Cemetery

Domestic/Institutional Housing

Recreation

Work in Progress

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

Late Victorian/Gothic

Late Victorian/Shingle Style

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation Stone

walls Brick

Wood/Weatherboard

roof Slate

other

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

See Continuation Sheets

National Soldiers Home Historic District
Name of Property

Milwaukee, Wisconsin
County and State

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing.)

- ☒ **A** Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- ☐ **B** Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- ☒ **C** Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- ☐ **D** Property has yielded, or is likely to yield, information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- ☐ **A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- ☐ **B** removed from its original location.
- ☐ **C** a birthplace or grave.
- ☒ **D** a cemetery.
- ☐ **E** a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- ☐ **F** a commemorative property.
- ☐ **G** less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.) See Continuation Sheets

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- ☐ preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- ☒ previously listed in the National Register
- ☒ previously determined eligible by the National Register
- ☐ designated a National Historic Landmark
- ☐ recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey

- ☐ recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Social History

Health/Medicine

Architecture

Politics/Government

Period of Significance

1867-1955

Significant Dates

N/A

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Mix, Edward Townsend

Koch, Henry C.

Primary location of additional data:

- ☒ State Historic Preservation Office
- ☐ Other State agency
- ☒ Federal agency
- ☐ Local government
- ☐ University
- ☐ Other

Name of repository:

Medical Library, VAMC, Milwaukee, WI

See Continuation Sheet

National Soldiers Home Historic District
Name of Property

Milwaukee, Wisconsin
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 150

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1	1 6	4 1 9 9 6 2	4 7 6 4 7 6 9
	Zone	Easting	Northing
2	1 6	4 2 0 1 7 3	4 7 6 4 7 9 6

3	1 6	4 2 0 2 3 2	4 7 6 5 3 2 9
	Zone	Easting	Northing
4	1 6	4 2 0 2 3 2	4 7 6 5 3 3 1

☒ See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

(Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.) See Continuation Sheets

Boundary Justification

(Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.) See Continuation Sheets

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Kristin Gilpatrick Halverson & See Continuation Sheets

organization Soldiers Home Foundation, Inc.

date 1/25/2005

street & number 5000 W. National Avenue

telephone 414-389-4135

city or town Milwaukee

state WI

zip code 53295

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps

A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A Sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs

Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items

(Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of SHPO or FPO.)

name Department of Veterans Affairs (Contact historic preservation officer Karen Tupek)

street & number 810 Vermont Ave. (182C)

telephone 202-565-5680

city or town Washington

state DC

zip code 20420

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.). A federal agency may not conduct or sponsor, and a person is not required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number.

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to Keeper, National Register of Historic Places, 1849 "C" Street NW, Washington, D.C. 20240.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 7 Page 1

National Soldiers Home Historic District
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

DESCRIPTION

The National Asylum for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers was established by Congressional legislation and approved by President Lincoln on March 3, 1865. Milwaukee was designated as the site of the Northwestern Branch, one of the three original branches in December, 1866.¹ The name of the institution was changed to the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers in 1873. In 1930, the National Home was one of the agencies providing veteran's benefits that was consolidated into the Veterans Administration.

Planning for the Northwestern Branch began in May 1867, when the Board of Managers of the National Asylum sent Chaplain Thomas Van Home to Milwaukee to arrange the grounds.² Construction of the original four buildings began in the fall of 1867. Two of the first four structures remain and are in the historic district: the Main Building (Building 2, 1867-1869 and 1875-1876) and the Governor's House (Building 39, 1867-1868). Van Home's plan for a recuperative village setting on the grounds remains virtually intact with the existing roadway system and the prominence of the Main Building as the focus of the entire site. A federal military cemetery, Wood National Cemetery, was built along the western edges of the Northwestern Branch grounds and opened to burials in 1871.³ The majority of buildings within the historic district that were used by the members of the Northwestern Branch were built between 1879 and 1895; numerous quarters for staff were built between 1887 and 1921. In 1933, a hospital annex (Building 43) was erected in the district.

The National Soldiers Home Historic District contains 48 resources and the historic landscape of the site. The district is divided in two sections, a small area north of Interstate Highway 94 containing the north entrance road and a portion of Wood National Cemetery, and a large area in the northern two-thirds of the present Veterans Affairs Medical Center grounds, which contains the majority of Wood National Cemetery.

The district is located on the far west side of Milwaukee at the west end of the Menomonee River valley, west-southwest of the downtown area of the city and four miles directly west of the Lake Michigan harbor entrance. The district straddles the former Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul & Pacific Railroad (Milwaukee Road) rail line, which parallels the river and crosses out of the valley through the historic district. The northern entrance to the district is located on Blue Mound Road, immediately adjacent to the original north entrance. Blue Mound Road is an extension of Wisconsin Avenue, the principal street running on the north side of the Menomonee River valley. The south side of the district is the creek watercourse and roadway running east-west to the north of the present main hospital (Building 111), which parallels National Avenue, the principal street running on the south side of the river valley.

Site

The National Soldiers Home Historic District consists of approximately 150 acres of rolling terrain characterized by a series of high bluffs facing the river valley with deep ravines between the bluffs. The elevation of the north portion of the district (north entrance and cemetery) is highest at the Blue Mound entrance and is lowest at the Cemetery, which was originally on the north side of a ravine that is now marked by the right-of-way of I-94. The interstate highway covers the site of one of the four ponds, which originally were found on the National Home grounds. The north portion of the district is connected to the main area of the district by a bridge crossing over I-94. The roadway, which enters the National Soldiers Home Historic District at Blue Mound Road, continues across the interstate highway, through the district directly in front of the Main Building (Building 2), and on to National Avenue, as it originally was laid out in 1867.

The main portion of the district is bounded on the north by I-94, and by the Milwaukee Brewer's Miller Park baseball stadium and its associated parking lots on the north half of the eastern boundary. A unique portion of the district's eastern boundary is comprised of a 120-meter long, 20-meter wide, 400 million year old Silurian Fossil Reef. Discovered in 1834 by Increase Lapham, the National Historic Landmark is located along the cliff face that forms the boundary with the western Miller Park access road and by Highway 41 on the south half of the eastern boundary. The south boundary is the creek watercourse running

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 7 Page 2

National Soldiers Home Historic District
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

roughly west to east through the wide, valley-like area between the high ground north of the railroad and the high ground along National Avenue. The west boundary is the west property line of the Veterans Affairs Medical Center.

The main portion of the district is divided into four large green areas. A large triangular area on the north side is centered on the chapel (Building 12) and bounded by quarters on the west and northeast, and the historic core buildings on the south. The Main Building (Building 2) fronts on a wooded hillside to the east. Cannon for firing salutes were originally located on the hillside; a powder magazine, now in ruins, is located to the northeast of the Main Building, on the hillside. A wide green area on the south side of the district includes Lake Wheeler and additional quarters. Wood National Cemetery forms a broad green area along the west boundary of the district. The roadway system closely follows the carriageways of the original plan with a principal north-south roadway (General Mitchell Boulevard), off of which curving secondary streets follow the contours of the site. Roads that originally entered the district from the former farmlands on the present site of the Miller Park parking lot have been closed to traffic with barricades.

Buildings

The buildings are grouped in six clusters: the historic core of main buildings, administration-recreation facilities, maintenance buildings, utility buildings, and residential areas to the south and to the north of the historic core. Building 43, the 1933 hospital annex, is located on the south side of the district with the utility buildings to the west and the south residential area to the east. Numerous garages were built in the district in the late 1930s to serve quarters built at earlier dates, and Quonset huts were built in the district in the mid- to late-1940s to serve as storage buildings.

The historic core of the district is made up of the 1869 Main Building (Building 2), the 1879 hospital with a 1880 convalescent ward addition (Building 6), two barracks (Building 5, 1884; Building 7, 1888), and the 1883 fire engine house (Building 11). The dominant building in the entire district is the Main Building (Building 2), a large Victorian Gothic structure designed by the prominent Milwaukee architect Edward Townsend Mix in 1867, and constructed between 1867 and 1869 with four corner towers added in 1875-1876⁴. This building housed all facilities for Home members from 1869 until 1884, when the first barrack (Building 5) was built. In 1879, a three-pavilion hospital (Building 6) was constructed west of the Main Building⁵. This building faces south, overlooking the wide valley space and National Avenue. The siting of the hospital appears to have been an attempt to readjust the orientation of the historic core buildings from the east to the south. A convalescent ward building was added to the hospital in 1880. The long axis of this building runs north-south, and may have been intended as the west side of an enclosed area with the rear of the Main Building on the east and the three pavilions of the hospital on the south. The fire engine house (Building 11), built in 1883, formed the north side of the enclosure.⁶

The east-west line established by the hospital was extended with the construction of a barrack (Building 5) in 1884, located between the hospital and the Main Building⁷. An additional barrack (Building 7) was constructed in 1888,⁸ directly west of the rear of the Main Building, and oriented north-south to parallel the 1880 convalescent ward building. The hospital and the two barracks were designed by Henry C. Koch, another prominent Milwaukee architect, in a straightforward Italianate style.⁹ The identification of the same architect for buildings that formed sides of the enclosure suggests that Koch may have been attempting to create a new or a secondary focus for the Northwestern Branch.

The administration-recreation facilities cluster is located directly to the south side of the historic core of the district, across General Wolcott Avenue from the southeast corner of the Main Building. This cluster is made up of the 1881 Ward Memorial Hall (Building 41),¹⁰ the Wadsworth Library (Building 3, 1892),¹¹ the Social Hall (Building 4, 1894),¹² and the Headquarters Building (Building 1, 1895).¹³ Although these buildings were built over a 14-year period, they are grouped in such a way as to indicate a long-term shift away from the eastern orientation of the Main Building, and to create a second enclosed space to the south side of the Main Building. This oddly configured area between Buildings 1, 3, and 4 with the walkway to Building 41 was identified as the "Parade Ground" in a 1917 photo souvenir of the Home. Situated along the west side of the walkway, north of the railroad tracks, is a marker set in stone with the words of the Gettysburg Address, erected in 1923. The Ward Memorial

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 7 Page 3

National Soldiers Home Historic District
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Hall was designed by Henry C. Koch in the Victorian Gothic style. The three later buildings exhibit very restrained handling of revival styles. The Headquarters Building has Renaissance Revival features, such as brick belt coursing, small second floor windows, and first floor window cornice treatment. The library was done in a Classical Revival style, and the Social Hall in a Colonial Revival style.

Maintenance buildings are clustered at the bottom of the hill in front of the Main Building along the railroad siding. The largest and oldest of the structures is the Quartermaster's Storehouse (Building 20), which was built in 1895, and may have been designed by Henry C. Koch, according to a news article that mentioned a "building" he did at the National Home in 1895.¹⁴ The storehouse is built of cream city brick with little stylistic elaboration. A large addition was built on the east of the structure in 1938; it has minimal stylistic treatment. Another contributing building in the maintenance group is the Paint Shop (Building 97, 1938), which is contributing because of its demonstration of the self-sufficient nature of the Home community. Other contributing buildings in the maintenance group include a garage (Building 99, 1941), and three Quonset huts erected in 1947 for storage (Buildings T-105, T-106, T-107 and T-114). The engineering warehouse (Building 107, 1957) and engineering shops (Building 108, 1957)¹⁵ located in this area are non contributing because they were built with the 50-year limitation of the National Register.

Utility buildings are located to the west of the Ward Memorial Hall, down the south slope from the hospital. The most prominent and oldest of these structures is the Power House (Building 45), built in 1895, with its tall smokestack (Building 106, 1921). The Power Plant has some decorative brickwork at its eave line, but is a very straightforward utilitarian building. The smokestack was targeted to encapsulate the brickwork. Other contributing buildings in the group are two simple duplex employee quarters (Buildings 49 and 50, 1909),¹⁶ garages (Building 81, 1935; Building 84, 1938), and the Laundry (Building 102, 1955). Recently-constructed, noncontributing utility facilities include: Power Plant (Building 112, 1964) and Incinerator (Building 119, 1973).¹⁷

The south residential area is located in the southeast corner of the district between the railroad tracks and the creek watercourse. Three quarters were built in this park-like area characterized by broad undulating lawns, tree clusters, and winding narrow roadways. The oldest quarters is the Governor's House, built in 1867-1868, which can be attributed to Edward Townsend Mix through a comparison with Mix's own house on Waverly Place in Milwaukee (demolished). The Governor's House was originally built in a Victorian Italianate Villa style characterized by tall round-headed windows, shallow bays, and a tower element pushed in the junction of the two cross gables of the building mass. The tower roof was covered in polychromatic bands similar to the roof treatment on the Main Building. Between 1889 and 1916, the main roof of the house was raised, the bays were increased to two stories, and the tower roof was replaced with a conical element.¹⁸

The remaining quarters in the area are the former Quartermaster's Quarters (Building 37), a simple vernacular side-gabled structure built in 1902, and located in the far southeastern corner of the district. The third quarters was a duplex quarters built for the Secretary and the Surgeon in 1867-1868; it was demolished in 1985, but its 1938 garage (Building 60) remains as a contributing structure.

Also in this area west of the Governor's House, bordered by Hines Avenue, North Washington Drive and General Mitchell Boulevard, is Lake Wheeler, the last remaining of four original, lakes on the site. In 1966, Lake Wheeler was moved to its present location 50-100 feet north of its original location (on the site of Building 111).¹⁹ It is 2 square acres and approximately four feet deep. The lake features a small island and rests in a park like setting, surrounded by approximately three acres of grass. Seven wooden park benches are located either in the lakeshore area or on the island. A modern picnic pavilion is located to the west of Lake Wheeler. On a rise north of the lake is a marker erected in 1972 by the State Medical Society of Wisconsin in honor of Home Governor Dr. Erastus B. Wolcott, a founder of the State Medical Society.

The north residential area is located north of the historic core of main buildings and roughly forms the boundaries of the large triangular open space on the north side of the district. The principal building is the 1889 chapel (Building 12), which has elements of the Queen Anne style in its asymmetrically-placed turreted tower, but is predominantly done in the Shingle Style

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 7 Page 4

National Soldiers Home Historic District
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

characterized by the broad mass of the roof, the grid-like arrangement of the windows, and the contrasting patterns of wood siding and shingles. The architect of the chapel was Henry C. Koch, the principal architect for Northwestern Branch buildings in the 1880s and 1890s.²⁰ The other buildings in this area are quarters and garages. The Shingle Style duplex Surgeon and Adjutant's Quarters (Building 17) was built in 1887 on the northwest side of the area²¹. Later quarters were the Protestant Chaplain's Quarters (Building 16), a vernacular frame residence built in 1901 just to the northwest of the chapel²²; the Catholic Chaplain's Quarters (Building 14), a frame residence with Colonial Revival features built in 1909 to the southwest of the chapel²³; and three Colonial Revival quarters built on the northeast side of the open area (Building 18, 1916²⁴; Building 19, 1921²⁵; and Building 62, 1922²⁶).

The district includes 41.1 acres of the 50.1 acre Wood National Cemetery, located along the western edge of the grounds of the Veterans Affairs Medical Center. Three-fourths of the buildings in the National Soldiers Home Historic District have a view of some of the federal military cemetery's 30,000-plus upright granite headstones. The Cemetery is one of the largest government burial grounds in the United States. Other contributing resources within the large portion of Wood National Cemetery that is within the historic district include Soldiers and Sailors Monument and the Cemetery Reception House (Building 57, 1900),²⁷ a small stone structure with a conical metal roof located adjacent to the Soldiers and Sailors Monument, the Cemetery Comfort Station (Building 75, 1928),²⁸ and the cemetery Tool House Quonset Hut (T-119, 1948). The Cemetery also contains seven bronze plaques with verses from the poem "Bivouac of the Dead," given to the Northwestern Branch in the 1880s and reset in stone mounts in 1941.²⁹

Other contributing resources include monuments, historic objects. The fountain in front of the Main Building was installed in 1870.³⁰ The Soldiers and Sailors Monument, an obelisk topped with the figure of a Civil War soldier was erected in the northwest corner of the Cemetery in 1903.³¹ The Hiker Monument, located in front of Building 43, was dedicated to Spanish-American War veterans in 1941.³²

In addition to Wood National Cemetery, there are three historic archaeological sites³³ along the eastern ridge line running south from the district's northeastern border with the baseball stadium to the creek watercourse near its southeastern border with National Avenue and Hwy. 41.³⁴

Three large buildings are located on the south side of the wide valley-like area, outside of the historic district. These structures are Building 70, the former tuberculosis hospital built in 1922-23; Building 111, the General Medical and Surgical Hospital, built in 1966; and Building 123, a domiciliary built in 1979. A State Historic Marker, which commemorates the establishment and history of the Milwaukee Soldiers Home, stands on the north side of National Avenue between 47th and 48th Streets. The boundaries of the historic district were not established to include these structures because the former tuberculosis hospital and the quarters associated with it have lost the context in which they were originally built, and the other two buildings were not built within the 50-year limitation of the National Register. The former tuberculosis hospital had originally been located in the completely open southwest corner of the Home grounds to provide maximum fresh air and sunlight, and to isolate the tubercular patients from the other Home members. In 1938, a large addition was built on the west side of Building 70 when it was converted to a general medical and surgical hospital. By the mid-1960s, Building 70 was no longer adequate to meet patient needs and Building 111 was built directly east of the 1923 facility. In the mid-1970s, to provide additional domiciliary space, the 1938 addition and the west wing of Building 70 were demolished and Building 123 was built. Large parking lots have been built to the east of Building 111 and to the north of Building 123.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 7 Page 5

National Soldiers Home Historic District
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

DESCRIPTION OF SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTING RESOURCES

Building 1 Headquarters 1895-96
Contributing / DOE
Architect: Unknown Style: Renaissance Revival

Exterior Description

Building 1 is a shallow "U" shape oriented with the open end to the west. The foundation is cut stone with mortar joints that are tooled to imitate coursed ashlar. On the north, east, and south sides of the building the foundation protrudes about 2" at the water table level to form a decorative molding. The exterior bearing walls are cream brick masonry construction. The floor joists and other interior framing are wood construction.

The main entrance to the building is located in the center of the open end of the "U" configuration and faces west. The entrance is defined by a narrow, one story portico that runs the length of the center building section between the wings. The six full and two engaged Tuscan order columns of the portico support a flat metal deck. The deck is accessed by either a centered second story wood and glass door or by a small metal "ships" ladder that extends to the ground on the right side of the portico. The deck handrails are modern 1½" steel pipe railings. There is a sign that reads "Milwaukee Wi." over the steps to the portico. The exterior brick walls and trim within the colonnade are now painted a cream color. The entry portico is reached by two concrete steps as well as a concrete ramp. Modern pipe railings are used at both the ramp and steps. A white wrought iron railing spans the columns on either side of the steps. There are also modern handrails composed of vertical ½" square steel bars spaced 6" on center with heavier horizontal members that span between three of the column openings. The west entrance is protected by an added white wooden wind-screen enclosure. The wind screen is made up of V grooved vertical panels with metal trim edges. The window and door trim of the screen is of simple flat pieces about 2½" wide with rounded edges. The front entrance door at the brick face inside the wind screen is made up of a wide horizontal panel at the bottom, then two square panels, a wide horizontal panel above the knob rail and topped by a large rectangular glass panel. The hardware is ornate. The hinges, which measure approximately 6" x 6", are cast with raised curvilinear motifs. There are two basement exits on the south side at grade and one exit on the east side that is approximately three feet below grade. The east basement exit has modern 1" to 1½" steel pipe railings and handrails.

There are three windows on each floor of the west end of the wings. The windows continue around the entire building in the same pattern spacing. The first floor windows are four-over-four light sash windows. The second floor are also four-over-four light sash windows that are smaller vertically than the first floor windows. All the windows are topped with radiating voussoirs that have flat brick cornices above them. The brick cornices continue between the windows on each floor to form a decorative banding above the windows. All the windows have stone sills and aluminum storms. The storm windows on the second floor match the sash meeting rails but the ones on the first floor do not. The lower storms are divided into thirds instead of halves. The windows are framed with a concave brick molding measuring about 3" wide and deep. Some hardware for awnings still exists on the wood window frames.

The building is covered with a hip roof. The cornice line at the roof is made up of a flat vertical board about 10" in depth and an ogee molding. The cornice bed molding is about 8" in depth and comprised of a short vertical board and then a curved convex molding. There are built in gutters at the roof eaves. The roofing materials are presently green composition shingles except for the portico roof, which appears to be soldered metal. There are two small hip roofed dormers on either side of the west entrance. They have small wood frame, single-pane, fixed windows. At the center of the ridge between the two dormers is a cupola with a flared, pyramidal roof, the top part of which forms a finial. Three sides of the cupola have louvers and the fourth side facing the west has a lock.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 7 Page 6

National Soldiers Home Historic District
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Interior Description

The interior of Building 1 contains a stairway running through the first floor lobby. This stair leading to the other levels had been originally framed by two arches, one for the run to the basement and one for the run to the second floor. One arch was eliminated to enclose the stair leading to the second floor but the arch leading to the basement stair is intact. The stairwells have rubber treads covering the stairs and modern steel pipe handrails. Wall to wall carpeting covers the lobby at the first floor. The remainder of the flooring at all levels is primarily resilient tile with the exception of the toilet rooms, which are covered with ceramic tile. The walls in the southeast room that was once used by the post office are covered with embossed metal. The post office contains its original brass, glass and wood mail slots; however, an undetected steam pipe leak damaged this area in 2002-03. The walls of the toilet rooms of Building 1 are covered with the same ceramic tile as is used on the floors. The bulk of the remaining walls are made of plaster. Some modern partitions have been added to the original plan. The ceilings on the lower level have 12"x12" acoustical tile applied to the original ceilings and the electrical conduit has been left exposed. The southeast room ceiling is covered with the same embossed metal as the walls in that room. On the second floor level the ceilings are plaster. The interior panel doors on the lower level seem to be original. Most of them have large rectangular glass lights at their upper sections and have transoms above them. The door hardware includes ornate hinges. The door leading to the second floor level is a flush door. The doors at the second level are mostly paneled and also have transoms over them. Here the status of the hardware varies. Some of the hinges seem to be original steeple hinges. Most doorknobs however, have been replaced with modern hardware. The windows on the first and second floor levels are four-over-four light sash windows. Interior window hardware seems to be original in many locations.

The door trim is about 6" wide with vertical ribbings. Square wood pieces with bull's eye carving in the center occur at the top edges. The trim surrounding the door to the stair to the second floor level is not original. There is no trim on the doorframes at the second level. The plaster meets the doors' wood casing at a quarter round turn of wood. There is no trim where the ceiling meets the wall. Contemporary fluorescent strip lighting is used in the main floor and upstairs lobby and in many of the offices.

Building 2 Main Building 1867-69; 1876

Contributing / DOE

Architect: Edward Townsend Mix Style: Victorian Gothic

Site Description

Building 2 occupies the most prominent place on the VA site. Located on a high point in the ground elevation, it can be seen from all points in the complex and from the expressway. It is of major visual impact in the complex.

A lawn area extends along the front of the east and part of the north facade. This area is dotted with a few shrubs, flower beds, and flowering trees. Bituminous drives abut the building at its south and northwestern sides. General Mitchell Boulevard passes by the east and north facades and Wolcott Avenue is along the south. The main facade faces east and overlooks a fountain and a rolling park-like area interspersed with trees. Immediately to the west is Building 5.

Exterior Description

Building 2 is a "T"-shaped building. The top of the "T" forms the main facade, which is oriented to the east. There is one tower centered on the east facade and four lower towers at the corners of the top of the "T". The base of the "T" has a wing that was added later located on the north side. The building varies in height from three stories with basement in the straighter middle sections to four stories with basement at the north and south end towers and central core section. The entrance tower on the east side is six stories high.

The building has a cut stone foundation wall of coursed ashlar pattern with flush mortar joints. The only exception to this is the

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 7 Page 7

National Soldiers Home Historic District
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

newer north wing, which does not have a stone foundation. The exterior bearing walls are cream brick masonry construction. The floor joists and other interior framing are wood construction. The brick masonry is set in a running bond without header courses, except at tops of arches and directly above the water table. The two-story cream brick addition of unknown date at the north side of the west wing has no decorative brick work, just flat surfaces of running bond with header courses every seventh course. Wall ornamentation includes rectangular brick panels with a recess in the center that are located at the wall surfaces, decorative brick and stone bands, and corbelling at the eaves of the towers. The second story facade on the south side of the base of the "T" has paired, engaged brick pilasters without bases or capitals. The south facade of the top of the "T" of this building shows evidence of a removed porch three stories high. This porch can be seen in early photographs. The central section of the south facade has three stories plus a half story protruding for the basement. Large arched brick openings, which perhaps enclosed pairs of double doors, have been infilled with cream brick. Double hung windows are set within these openings and are much smaller than the former openings.

The first floor of the east tower is open on three sides with high, Gothic arches. Granite steps on the three sides lead to a landing within the support columns underneath the tower. There is a modern 1½" steel pipe handrail located in the center of the east steps. The steps rise again on the fourth side to the main entrance to the building. Clustered piers support the Gothic arches at the base of the tower. The piers rest on a base that is made of light buff, cut stone similar to the foundation walls. The tower above features various sized Gothic-arched windows, several cornices, and is topped with a four sided mansard roof with a plain balustrade at the top that was added later. The slate roof has light and dark tiles in varying patterns. There were balconies at the third floor windows of the tower on the east side and other locations. They have been removed but traces of them can be seen in the brickwork and in early photographs.

The main entrance to the building located on the east side is a modern, metal and glass, storefront entry. The original doors have been salvaged and mounted on the walls of the entrance hallway. At the basement level of the south facade is an enclosed entrance and waiting area for buses made of aluminum storefront material with a cream brick base. There is a similar but smaller enclosure framing the entrance on the north side. There is also an entrance off a small loading dock on the north side addition. The dock is open with a simple flat metal canopy.

There are round windows, with keystones at the top and sides, located within the stone foundation base at the northeast tower. At the northwest tower base, there are round head windows within the stone foundation walls. The windows above the foundation vary from floor to floor and section to section. However, they all have either a brick arch or a Gothic arch incorporated in or around the transom or tracery. They also all have sashes painted a tomato red color and engaged brick pilasters without bases or capitals flanking each of the windows. There are horizontal stone bands at the bases of the windows of the towers that vary in depth and horizontal stone sills that connect pairs of windows and on single windows over the rest of the building. The windows in the end towers are simple, tall, double hung, dual windows with low brick arches. The two-story west wing or base of the "T" has paired windows topped with low brick arches. The windows are four-over-four light sash windows. The newer north wing has modern aluminum windows set in pairs. They are divided horizontally into thirds and the upper sections have green panels. Most of the windows have aluminum storm windows that match the sash divisions.

The varying roofline is primarily of the mansard style. The north and south towers at each end of the east facade, as well as the central tower and its central block, seem to retain the original tri-colored slate roofing tiles, which vary from a zig-zag fish scale pattern to a simple rectangular lap pattern, and then repeat again several times. The most noticeable pattern is on the fourth story roof around the core portion of the building. Other mansard roofing material is modern composition shingles, green, in a rectangular lap pattern. The north wing has a flat roof. Some of the top-most cornice trim has been covered with metal fascia material, but the cornice trim at the corner towers seem to be intact, including its iron cresting. The iron cresting is missing from the top of the main six-story tower. The gutters, downspouts, and wood trim of the building are painted green. There is aluminum colored fascia at the mansards.

The roof has slightly projecting, gabled dormers. Each dormer has Gothic tracery surrounding two tall, narrow double doors.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 7 Page 8

National Soldiers Home Historic District
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

windows topped with a shorter double-hung window. The slightly more angled mansard roofs over the north and south towers are crowned with decorative wrought iron balustrades or "roof cresting." The small, steep, hipped dormers, one on each side of the towers, have only one small, double-hung window. The roof over the straight sections that form the connecting wings from the core to the towers is also mansard. The six dormers per side are gabled and have double-hung windows with Gothic arch transoms.

At the roof level are located roof access enclosures. One has a sloped roof that has a stair and exit door that leads out onto the roof. The roof access enclosure is of light cream brick that doesn't exactly match the brick of the rest of the building. Access to the roof can also be gained by a network of roof "ship's" ladders. Toward the central section of the east wing is an elevator penthouse of concrete block. There are skylights located on the roof of the east wing above the stairwells and the fifth floor elevator lobby.

Transformers located at ground level on the west side of the east wing are enclosed with cyclone fencing. There is additional equipment located on the flat roof of the one story portion of the west wing.

Interior Description

The floor plan for Building 2 is in the shape of a "T". The main entrance is located on the east end of one wing of the cross. Rooms are located off the main corridor leading from the entrance wing and along the two wings perpendicular to it. The west wing at the opposite end of the main corridor contains the dining hall on the first floor level. The hall has three rows of plain slender columns about 16' on center and a large kitchen facility at the north end. This serving kitchen and dishwashing area has quarry tile floors, tile walls, and some skylights. Laundry facilities, storage, and mechanical areas were once located in the basement along with a large canteen in the basement with a seating area. The fifth floor level is in the base of the mansard and has dormer windows set in deep wells at the floor level. This level has a small floor area and a partial height partition system.

The flooring in Building 2 is terrazzo in the corridors. The dining hall floor is now covered with now crumbling resilient tile as are the floors on the fifth floor and in the canteen in the basement. The basement floor level has quarry tile floors.

Walls are generally covered in wall covering of various patterns, but some walls are just painted along with the wainscoting that appears to be original or at least, old. The wainscot has vertical, grooved boards about 4" wide and 2' 1½" high, and is topped with a chair rail. A 3½" high wainscot with baseboard and chair rail is found in many of the side rooms and at the tower of the fourth floor. There is no indication of molding at the juncture of the plaster walls and plaster ceilings in the rooms. Wood baseboards are about 8" high and seem to be original in most areas. Window trim also seems to be intact in most areas.

There are shallow arches at the ceiling level in the main entrance corridor on both the east and west ends. Large molded pendants are at the base of these arches about 8' above the floor level. A series of five shallow pointed arches are at the corridor intersection in the center of the building. This first floor central area has a floor level that is recessed about 3' below the corridor level. The basement has painted plaster ceilings with exposed piping. Low arches separate the various sections of the lower level at the corridors. Acoustical tile has been glued to the plaster ceilings in most areas. The dining hall ceiling has suspended acoustical tile. Acoustical tile is set on wood sleepers over the plaster ceilings on the fourth floor. The fifth floor elevator lobby has skylights at the ceiling. Other ceilings on the fifth floor are plaster.

The second and third floor levels have raised seating areas in the central tower that are accessed by a short flight of stairs and are surrounded by small pointed arch windows. There are three windows on each of the three exterior walls. The fourth wall has a low arch over an opening spanning the width of the corridor. Low arched openings are also found at junctures in the corridor.

The east main entrance door at the first floor is now a modern, aluminum double storefront type entrance. A pair of doors with wood Gothic tracery at the transom have been removed from the interior of this entrance corridor. Wood trim molding French doors with 12 panes of obscure glass are found in the entrance corridor. The doors have glass transoms that are still intact, but

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 7 Page 9

National Soldiers Home Historic District
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

painted over. The walls are about 1' 6" wood Gothic tracery at the transom thick at the entrance corridor. Doorknobs and related trim are not original, but keyhole escutcheons in several places seem to be original. The hinges vary from original to modern replacements. Many of the doors are original panel doors with two vertical small panels at the bottom and long vertical upper panels. Heavy moldings trim the edges of all the panels. Stair enclosures have flush doors and modern trim. On the fourth floor the doors and hardware are missing in most places. Most of the doorknobs are replacements, but some original white knobbed hardware and key escutcheons can be found in some of the sleeping rooms.

Some of the old heating grillwork remains. A sprinkler system runs along the face of the acoustical tile and various other pipe work is pendant hung or directly applied to the ceiling. Pipes and conduit-work extend over many of the wall and ceiling surfaces and in front of some of the windows in the tower second level.

Building 3 Wadsworth Library 1891

Contributing / DOE

Architect: Unknown Style: Classical Revival

Exterior Description

Building 3 is a rectangular shaped one story building that is oriented with the main entrance facing north. The foundation is rough cut Wisconsin limestone of large rectangular blocks in even coursing that have been tuckpointed. The original mortar joints were tooled in a raised pattern at the horizontal and vertical joints. The exterior bearing walls are cream brick. Engaged brick columns with carved ogee capitals and rough stone bases divide the facades into bays on all four sides. There are five bays across the front and back, and nine bays along each side. The exterior brick work is running bond without headers. Above the windows on top of the smooth stone lintels are brick sized stone laid stack bond in three sections, 6 bricks high.

The northwest corner bays are cut out to form an entrance stoop. The corner is completed by a single freestanding column. Six concrete entry steps lead up to the main entrance stoop. The three lowest ones wrap around the outside of the freestanding column. There is now indoor/outdoor carpeting covering the concrete steps. The handrails are modern pipe railing. These railings extend out and around the freestanding column and the engaged columns at the sides of the steps. There are holes that indicate where earlier handrails were set into the stone work. A small globe light hangs in the recessed portico. The entrance to the Library has a modern aluminum door and storefront system with side light and transom. There are two other exits, both are on the south side of the building. One exit is on the first floor level and leads to an exterior metal stairway. The other leads from the basement and is on grade. This exit is framed in a newer wood and metal wind-screen enclosure.

Each bay has a three-over-three light sash, double-hung window in it with a recessed brick panel above. The window head and sill are smooth stone. Each bay has a corresponding basement window below it. These windows are very short across the front at the base due to the grade, but are taller along the sides with sloped grade. The only bay without windows is at the northwest corner. All the windows have aluminum storms in two sections.

A truncated hip roof of composition shingles covers the rectangular library. Across the top of the roof in the center is a large skylight. The roof cornice is highlighted by large dentils. There is a wide gabled dormer at the center of the north end. It has three small, single paned, sash windows. At the south end of the roof is a dormer that flanks a corbelled chimney. The dormer gable is broken by the chimney. There is one double-hung window on either side of the chimney at this dormer. Both the north and south side dormers have decorative wood molding at the gable end.

A dark oblong sign hangs below the eaves at the center of the north facade. In gold letters, it says "Wadsworth Library."

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 7 Page 10

National Soldiers Home Historic District
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Interior Description

The interior of Building 3 is essentially a large rectangular two-story room at the first floor level. There is a narrow staircase in the northeast corner that leads to a balcony that runs along the outside walls overlooking the main reading room below. The balcony is supported by slender cast iron columns with Corinthian type capitals. The balcony has a wood balustrade of square, fluted balusters set about 5" on center. They are topped with a heavy handrail and supported at 20' centers with chamfer edged posts.

The main level floor is covered with carpet. In the basement the floors are resilient tile. The walls are plaster with wall coverings on the main floor. There is a continuous apron running under all the windows at the east and west walls with the same longitudinal fluting as on the door and window trim. The basement walls were covered with vinyl fabric, but drywall has recently been applied. The floor and walls at the far north end of the building in the men's room are terrazzo. Terrazzo at the walls extends up about 7' in this room. There is a plaster ceiling over the main area but the underside of the balcony and the basement ceilings are covered with acoustic tile. The ceiling of the reading room is supported with trusses that have wood upper cords with steel bottom cords and steel diagonal members. There is a large gabled skylight in the center of the reading room ceiling. The skylight sub windows of amber glass are intact, but the skylight at the roof surface has been covered.

The interior has original doors, hinges, trim, and key escutcheons and baseboards. The door trim has fluting and square decorative pieces at the upper corners with bull's eye insets. Several of the basement doors are modern, flush, wood doors. At the south end of the large room on the main floor is a fireplace with a mantle of applied scrollwork and various other carved elements. An ogee molding surrounds glazed tiles of ocher color with a raised floral leaf pattern. Around the hearth opening is brass trim with corners of diagonal leaf patterns set in square mounts. The brass trim is about 1½" wide. A chain operated wood dumbwaiter for books extends from the main level to the balcony level.

Strip fluorescent lighting fixtures are suspended from the ceiling trusses.

There are small dormer windows at the balcony level that are double hung windows with a single light below and above. The basement level has its original windows with rounded edge jamb trim but without face trim.

The basement is entered only at the south end of the building where there is a wood, flat roofed, wind enclosure with dentil molding along the shallow, simple cornice. There is also a modern steel fire escape leading from the upper level at the south end to grade.

Building 4 Social Hall 1894

Contributing / DOE

Architect: Unknown Style: Colonial Revival

Exterior Description

Building 4 is a two-story building with basement. It is rectangular in shape, except for a one and a half story, semi-circular bay at the northwest corner. The bay contains the interior staircase that has semi-circular landings. The building is oriented to the north where the wood entry portico is located. The basement level is brick, painted white, combined with rough cut stone of regular coursing with raised, tooled mortar joints.

The building is finished mostly in white, narrow clapboard, which is interrupted by white, wood, engaged columns that divide the facades into bays. The north end has three bays and each side has six. The engaged columns on the outside of the building are composed of 1" x 8" center matched, tongue and groove boards running vertically, three boards wide. The capitals are composed of ogee molding and vertical flat pieces with a bead and cove astragal molding about 8" below the capital. The second floor level

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 7 Page 11

National Soldiers Home Historic District
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

of the bay has engaged pilasters of simple rectangular shape with moldings at the capital and the bases. The semi-circular bay at the left side is finished with wide siding on the lower half and wood framed windows on the top half. On the east side the bay has composition board siding 8" deep attached to it that probably covers other material underneath. The entire building is painted white. Old photographs, however, indicate the color scheme was formerly multi-hued.

The main entrance is through a one-story portico in the left bay of the north facade. The portico has a low, sloped roof with a projecting entablature that is supported by narrow, squared columns. The stoop, partially bound by a white post railing, is reached by seven wooden steps. The stoop was later expanded across the right part of the front and extended out slightly to the sidewalk. Unlike the wood entry stoop, the newer extension that forms a raised platform is constructed of red brick and concrete, and is encircled by a metal railing. There is a wood sign with black letters on a white background saying "Recreation Building" attached to the entablature of the portico.

The main entrance doors located within the portico are modern, aluminum storefront system with large, glass panes and a single pane glass transom. The door is set in from the facade about 2" and has a 1" high molded base board and grooved vertical 1" x 4" board at the side and ceiling of the recess. A modern flush door with a single light is located at the end of the semi-circular bay. It leads to the stairway inside. An emergency exit, located on the east side of the building, has an attached metal fire escape extending from the third-floor level down to grade.

Each bay normally has a pair of double-hung windows on each floor. These are single-light double-hung sash windows, which originally had transoms at the first-floor level, but these are now covered with metal panels painted white. Two of the bays at the north facade have similar, but taller windows with large panels above them. The windows of the semi-circular bay are very narrow, single-paned, double-hung windows. The windows at the basement level have low arches of radial soldier coursed brick at the tops. All the windows have aluminum storms.

The building is covered with a gabled roof of green composition shingle. The semi-circular bay has a flat roof with a slight wood parapet. A TV antenna is located at the ridge near the north end.

Interior Description

The first floor of Building 4 is basically one large room. Located in the large room at the first floor level is a central row of four 8" diameter columns with simple capitals of ogee trim. A plaster enclosed beam runs along the top of the columns. Floors inside are resilient tile and are edged with 10" high baseboard. The walls and the ceilings are painted plaster.

The interior stairway is simply detailed with a solid wood panel set between the handrail and the stringer and a modern pipe railing at the sides. The treads are rubber faced. The newel post at the bottom of the stairs has inset panels with beaded, inset molding.

An exit door leads from the first floor level to grade at the southwest corner via a metal fire escape. This door has sidelights with narrow wood panels about 2' high on either side at the bottom and a double light transom, with glass in it, above. The door has a wire glass light divided into two parts. There are some original four-panel wood doors with original hardware, knobs and escutcheons but most are modern, wood flush panel doors with panic hardware. Window trim is fluted lengthwise with square elements at the top corners.

The upper level has one large room. A central beam is located midway in the room and is encased with plaster and supports a folding partition. Resilient tile covers floors and acoustical tile covers the ceiling. One door is an original four-panel door with original trim. The others are modern.

The lower level has carpeted floors, a suspended acoustical tile ceiling, and houses a bowling alley. In the center is a row of columns matching those on the first floor. The grade exit at the south end of the lower level has a contemporary flush panel

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 7 Page 12

National Soldiers Home Historic District
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

hollow metal door with a sidelight and panic hardware.

The V.A. is making extensive renovations to the interior of this building to create office space in late 2004 and 2005. The Wisconsin State Historical Society Preservation Office is reviewing these changes. The impact that the renovations will have on the historic integrity of the interior of Building 4 is unknown at the time of this writing.

Building 5 Barracks 1884

Contributing / DOE

Architect: Henry C. Koch Style: Utilitarian with Italianate features

Exterior Description

Building 5 is a three story barracks that is rectangular in shape with the exception of small protruding sections at the center in both the front and rear. The foundation is random coursed ashlar stone with a 1' deep water table course with a sloped, carved top. The exterior bearing walls are cream, common bond brick without header courses. The interior is wood frame construction.

The main entrance faces south and is in a centered projecting pavilion that is topped with a third floor-hipped gable. The first floor entry is reached by 13 concrete steps that rise up to the center of the long porch. Entry doors are a double, aluminum storefront style that are set into a brick arch, which is supported by engaged brick columns.

The structure's most outstanding architectural feature is its two-tiered, open porch. It extends the entire length of the west side of the building, with only an interruption on the second floor above the entry. It has a large double wood and glass door and four over four double-hung windows on either side. The doors open onto a deck with iron railings that top the only enclosed area of the porch. The second floor enclosed area has three columns. Between them are modern iron railings. The three porch/deck levels are connected by two sets of exterior metal stairs that are nestled against the projecting pavilion's modern corner additions for exiting. The porch is set on 18" square brick piers that are spanned by wood latticework. The porch deck sits about 6' above grade and has 2" x 6" decking painted gray. The columns supporting the porch have chamfering at the edges. The porch railings are modern pipe railings that replace earlier wood railings and balustrade.

There are small, three-pane, horizontal windows located on the west side at the stone base. The dormer windows are nine-over-nine light, double-hung sash windows. The rest of the windows are all double-hung sash windows with varying pane patterns. A wide, decorative wood band runs horizontally underneath the sills of the windows at these ends. All windows have mill finish aluminum storms.

The building is topped with a two-sided mansard roof with shed dormers. The mansard roofing material is green composition shingles. There are simple, fluted brackets located at the dormer above the west entrance at the roof level and also at the eave ends just under the cornice at the north and south ends of the building. The north and south ends of the building rise vertically to meet the roof edge, and are faced with wood shingles. The building has two joined chimneys with high corbelling, located at the center of each side wing.

Building 6 Hospital 1879

Contributing / DOE

Architect: Henry C. Koch Style: Victorian Italianate

Exterior Description

The original portion of Building 6 is laid out roughly in an "E" shape. The front entrance is located at the end of the middle wing

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 7 Page 13

National Soldiers Home Historic District
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

and faces south. These wings are three stories in height and the connecting sections are two stories over basements. There is a large wing addition to the north and one below the "E" to the west. The foundation is of random coursed, cut stone. The newer addition on the north has a stone foundation that matches closely that of the original building. The exterior bearing walls are multi-toned, common bond brick without headers except for the north addition, which is finished in cream brick.

The focal point of the building's mixed architectural style is at the three-story pavilion or entrance wing. The first floor entry portico has a massive cornice and entablature that is supported by one white round column in each corner and is topped with a flat deck and an ornate wrought iron railing. Twelve modern concrete steps with modern iron railings lead up to the base of the portico. Above this projecting wood pavilion is a pediment with a small boarded up Palladian window. A cornerstone at the base near the entrance reads "1879." The west wing of the original "E" has an enclosed porch with single-pane, double hung windows. On the east wing, where photographs show there was once a porch, the brick is painted white. Concrete steps with a modern, wrought iron handrail extend down to grade from the door that was once at the first floor porch level. The far western end of Building 6 is a partially white painted, brick wing with a porch rapped around it on the north, west and south ends. The porch has a 2" x 6" wood decking and is raised about 4' above grade on brick piers. The handrails are modern pipe handrails that replace the wood ones shown in early photographs. The wood porch columns have chamfered edges. Wood stairways connecting the two porch levels flank the central projection of the west facade. At the second floor are a pair of French doors with fifteen lights in each door. The porch at the north end of this wing is enclosed with vertical, ribbed siding and has a band of aluminum, double-hung windows.

The main entrance is a double leaf, aluminum and glass storefront door that is set in a recessed Tudor arch panel. The west entrance has a pair of modern aluminum double doors at the first floor.

On either side of the projecting entrance pavilion on each floor is one stilted, segmental window crowned with a brick, Tudor arch window head. The bases of the Tudor arches connect to bands of brick soldier coursing set at a diagonal to the facade. These continue around to the wings of the original section of the building. The windows on each floor within the pavilion are the same style. They are paired and underscored with a bracketed stone sill. The first floor windows of the connecting sections are plain, four-over-four light, double-hung windows with slightly elliptical brick arches. The second floor of these sections has double-hung windows with semi-circular eyebrow brick arches. The north wing has paired windows. Simple eyebrow trim tops the lower windows, and soldier course brick is located over the large pairs of first floor windows. Aluminum storms cover all the windows of the building. Some storms are in three sections and do not match the meeting rails of the windows. The top sections of the circle head windows, at the second floor, are covered with metal. Windows in the attic are boarded.

The original "E" shaped section of the building is covered with a low, truncated hip roof. The two-story connecting sections have a simple gable roof. The roof is covered with green composition shingles except for the north wing, which has a flat roof. At the top of the entry pavilion are eight ornate chimneys with extensive corbelling, insets and decorative stone trim. At the northwest and northeast corners of the west wing are large chimneys with extensive corbelling and inset brick ribbing. The chimneys are attached to elongated hexagonal brick bays. At the center of the west wing roof ridge is a tall, chimney type structure with an open section and a hip metal roof with cresting at the top. The roof of this structure is supported with posts with fan shaped, decorative brackets at the four corners. At the other end of this wing is an elaborate large chimney with the same type of corbelling as the chimneys on the entry wing. The entrance pediment shares a cornice that has decorative brackets at the eaves. The pavilion is crowned with "roof cresting." The small gables facing east and west on the wings have large cove brackets at the lower end of the eaves. The trim on the building is painted white.

Interior Description

In general, the wings of this building are one large room with the exception of the far west wing and the entrance wing, which have office space. Most floors are carpet and walls are plaster. The basement, however, has resilient tile and masonry walls. Most original doors have been replaced with flush doors and the transoms above them have been boarded. Ornamentation is limited to the entrance lobby.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 7 Page 14

National Soldiers Home Historic District
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Building 7 Barracks 1888

Contributing / DOE

Architect: Henry C. Koch Style: Utilitarian with Italianate features

Exterior Description

Building 7 is very similar to Building 5. It is a three story barracks that is rectangular in shape with the exception of small protruding sections at the center in both the front and rear. The foundation is random coursed ashlar stone with a 1' deep water table course with a sloped, carved top. The exterior bearing walls are cream, common bond brick without header courses. The interior is wood frame construction.

The main entrance faces west and is in a centered projecting pavilion that is topped with a third floor, hipped gable. The first floor entry is reached by two sets of 4 riser stairs on either side of the pavilion. Entry doors are a double, aluminum storefront style with panic hardware.

The structure's most outstanding architectural feature is its two-tiered, open porch. It extends the entire length of the west side of the building, with only an interruption on the second floor above the entry. The brickwork at the porch is painted white. It has a large double wood and glass door and four over four double-hung windows on either side. The doors open onto a deck with iron railings that top the only enclosed area of the porch. The second floor enclosed area has three columns. Between them are modern iron railings. The three porch/deck levels are connected by two sets of exterior metal stairs that are nestled against the projecting pavilion's modern corner additions for exiting. The porch is set on 18" square brick piers that are spanned by wood latticework. The porch deck sits about 4' above grade and has 2" x 6" decking painted gray. The columns supporting the porch have chamfering at the edges. The porch railings are modern pipe railings that replace earlier wood railings and balustrade.

There are small, three-pane, horizontal windows located on the west side at the stone base. The dormer windows are nine-over-nine light, double-hung sash windows. The rest of the windows are all double-hung sash windows with varying pane patterns. A wide, decorative wood band runs horizontally underneath the sills of the windows at these ends. All windows have mill finish aluminum storms. The meeting rails do not match those of the double-hung windows.

The building is topped with a two-sided mansard roof with shed dormers. The mansard roofing material is green composition shingles. There are simple, fluted brackets located at the dormer above the west entrance at the roof level and also at the eave ends just under the cornice at the north and south ends of the building. The north and south ends of the building rise vertically to meet the roof edge, and are faced with wood shingles. The buildings have two joined chimneys with high corbelling, located at the center of each side wing.

Building 11 Fire Engine House and Quarters 1883

Contributing / DOE

Architect: Unknown Style: Utilitarian

Exterior Description

Building 11 is a rectangular duplex two-story building with a partial basement and full attic. The asymmetrical front face of the building is oriented to the north. The foundation is cut stone and brick. The exterior material is primarily cream brick in common bond with headers every 7th course. The west end of the building is a combination of brick and white, painted, clapboard siding. There is a three-sided brick bay on the north facade that has a white clapboard gable with brackets at the corners.

A frame and screen porch extends from the bay across the north facade to the northwest corner of the unit. Inside the screening is a wooden turned balustrade. On the east end of the north facade is a small frame and screen entry porch. The porch encloses a window and a door with a glass pane.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 7 Page 15

National Soldiers Home Historic District
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

The windows vary on each facade. On the north wall to the west of the entry porch is a double-hung sash window with an elliptical brick arch. There are four sash windows with lintels on the second story of this end, and elliptical soldier courses at their heads. The semi-hexagonal bay on the north facade has one double-hung, single light sash window on each side at both the first and second stories. The east facade of the building has a gable end with two sets of triple, double-hung windows at the first floor level. They have stone sills and the head consists of elliptical arches of soldier course brick with a double course of corbelled brick above the arch. The three windows are separated by 8" wide mullions. At the second floor level are four double-hung windows with stone sills and low elliptical arches with a soldier course at the lintel. At the gable is a small, square, 25-light sash window to the attic.

A high-pitched gabled roof of dark grey composition shingles runs the length of the duplex. There is an internal brick chimney that marks the common wall between the two units in this duplex. The lower ends of the gables have large brackets bridging the cornice at the eave to the brickwork below.

Interior Description

The ceilings of Building 11 are plaster, and the floors are carpeted, except in the kitchens where there are resilient tiles. Walls are plastered with fabric covering. There is a white marble fireplace, with grey marble hearth, in the west end of the building.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 7 Page 16

National Soldiers Home Historic District
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Building 12 Chapel 1889

Contributing / DOE

Architect: Henry C. Koch Style: Shingle Style with Queen Anne features

Exterior Description

Building 12 is essentially in the shape of a cross with a few appendages. A small one-story sacristy wing with a Swedish gambrel roof forms the west facade. The most prominent feature is the attached steeple and bell tower at the southeast corner. The foundation is brick that has been painted grey. The building is sided with a combination of clapboards and shingles. At the base of the building below the windowsill are shingles cut in saw-toothed and scallop-edged patterns. Above this is a section of narrow width clapboards (4½" exposure) that continue to the window heads. Above this band are more shingles. At the gable ends of the transepts the stained-glass windows are flanked by flared, shed extensions of the wall shingling with a simple molding beneath. The bearing walls are wood frame construction.

A narrow veranda stretches from the entry porch on the southeast corner to the southwest transept ending with a door. The Chapel's large gabled roof flares slightly to cover the veranda, which is enclosed by a balustrade with 1½" square balusters. Two stained glass triple windows overlook the veranda from the Chapel. On the northeast side of the chapel is the main door with a similar veranda that runs from the steeple end to the west transept.

The main entrance at the northeast corner has a small gable roof. The gable end has fish-scale and saw-tooth shingle facing. The roof is supported by large 8" square chamfer-edged columns. Large scroll carved brackets with holes pierced in them support the lower ends of the eaves. The porch decking is tongue and groove wood, painted grey. The simple porch balustrade is of 1½" square balusters spaced about 1' on center. In addition to the main entrance there is a second entrance at the east corner of the south facade. This door is also covered with a gable roof that is supported with large brackets. There are also doors leading from the chancel area at the west end. They have small shed extensions of the gable roof with large supporting brackets. Below is a small porch deck with four risers, wood steps, and a simple wood handrail of 2" x 4"s painted white. The doors of the Chapel are typically double doors with 4 horizontal inset panels with raised central sections and square multicolored stained-glass lights at the top.

Each end of the cross has a similar rectangular, stained glass window that is mullioned into tall, narrow sections with smaller sections at the top. On the east facade the larger stained glass window is flanked by compatible but smaller stained glass windows. The stained glass windows are in an alternating narrow and long rectangle pattern with rectangular perimeter bands in a mottled green glass. Some round elements occur at the small, square shaped windows above the tall lower windows.

One main gable roof runs down the nave/sanctuary. Over the transepts are lower gabled roofs. The roof is covered with grey composition shingles.

The steeple has a tall, pyramidal, composition shingle roof with small dormer like protrusions on each side that have decorative vents. The vents allow the sound of ringing bells to be emitted. Complementing the steeple, a small turret rises up from the location of the "crossing" of the Chapel. The turret has a steep pyramidal roof with decorative iron work at its peak.

The main bell tower has shingled base running up to about 4'. Above that are two clapboard sections topped by a small gable-like extension with an ogee cornice and dentil bed-molding underneath its horizontal projection. Higher up on the tower are several alternating bands of saw-toothed, scallop-edged, concave, convex, and standard coursed shingling running all the way up to the eave at the base of the tower roof. The peak of the tower roof has an iron cross with fan shape infilled at its corners and decorative spirals within those. At the southeast corner of the bell tower is a five-sided engaged turret containing tall narrow louvers about 6" wide and 8' tall near the top. The turret has a six-sided tent roof at its peak. There are indications that there were once gable posts at the peaks of the transept gable roof; only the lower portions are on the building now.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 7 Page 17

National Soldiers Home Historic District
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Interior Description

The nave in the interior of Building 12 has two rows of columns, four in each row, supporting the gable roof. An elliptical arched, wood truss system spans crosswise and longitudinally between columns. The clustered columns have trim at the top of the base and at the capitals. The capitals are about 6" deep and have acanthus leaf carving and molded elements. The interior of the building has resilient tile flooring. The central section of the ceiling is covered with white perforated acoustical tile. The rest of the ceiling is a painted textured plaster. The walls are painted plaster with faint score marks imitating tile or brick.

At the chancel end of the chapel are three stained glass windows. The center one is Christ holding a lamb and carrying a shepherd's staff. To the left is Mary and to the right is St. John writing with a quill and holding a book with an eagle at his feet. At the lower section of the window with Christ is a crown with a cross through it. Below Mary is a heart with a band of flowers around it and a knife piercing it. Below the figure of St. John is a heart with thorns. Most of the stained glass windows have dedicatory insets near the bottom in memory of the various families and individuals who donated to the chapel.

The altar is composed of Gothic inset panel elements lined at the edges in gold. Small green, marble, columns front the altar. It is reached by first two steps to a platform and then three steps to the altar dais. A large Tudor shaped arch of concave molding inset with a floral, decorative pattern frames the altar. The chancel rail is wrought iron with repetitive Gothic tracery and a wood handrail at the top. Interspersed is a wheat sheaf and grapevine motif painted a contrasting silver to the black of the rest of the wrought iron work. A large pipe organ is at the left side of the chancel area. It has a paneled wood base and pipes surrounding the swell chamber.

All interior woodwork and door trim seem to be original. There is a wood 3½" high dado around the perimeter of the interior made of mahogany- stained birch wood with rectangular panels. The oak pews are finished in a honey tone. The trim around doors and windows is simple 1" x 5" molding with rounded edges. Most of the doors, other than the entrance doors, have horizontal panels, 6 per door. Hardware, knobs, and steeple hinges seem original. The doorknobs with their large escutcheons (about 6" high) with round ends are brass. Lighting fixtures of inverted urn shape are located at the engaged columns at the walls. They extend from the wall pendant style and are frosted glass with Gothic motifs. Along the walls are plaster casts of the stations of the cross.

Building 14 Catholic Chaplain's Quarters 1909

Contributing / DOE

Architect: Unknown Style: Vernacular frame with Colonial Revival features

Exterior Description

Building 14 is an irregularly shaped building that faces east towards a small drive. On the north side of the building is a small narrow one-story addition. The finished floor level of the addition is a few feet below the first floor. On the south facade is a rectangular projection at the southwest corner that has its first floor corners set at a diagonal. The two-story house has a full basement, with rough face cast, concrete block walls.

The bearing walls are wood frame construction, which are covered with painted white clapboard. The main entrance door is on the left of the front wing. Enclosing the front wing is a small, screened porch. Surrounding the porch foundation are white lattice panels. A low, hip roof to the right is supported by white wood columns. A small gabled overhang at the left is above the screen door. It is reached by six wooden steps flanked by modern wood railings. Behind the screen porch is the wood entrance door, which has one pane of glass at its upper section and a single pane glass transom above the door. The rear entrance is a white wood door with one small pane of glass covered by a dark framed, wood screen door. This is the same dark color that appears on the frames of the screen porch.

There is a two light window on the right side of the porch.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 7 Page 18

National Soldiers Home Historic District
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

a double-hung window. On either side is an oval window covered with fancy iron grille bars. At the attic level of the gable is a small double-hung window and exposed vertical framing filled in with clapboard. The rectangular projection on the southwest corner has double hung windows at the diagonal sections. At the flat section, facing south, are three small vertical windows about 6' above the floor level inside. Simple scroll brackets with lightbulb shaped pendants are at the corners where the second floor overhangs at the first floor level to fill out the corner. The irregularly-spaced fenestration around the remainder of the house is comprised of double hung windows with single panes in each moveable section.

Building 14 has a steep hipped roof with a large gable over the asymmetrical front wing. It is covered in green composition shingles. On the west side, towards the north, is a tall narrow rectangular red brick chimney with corbelling at the top. The addition on the north has a sloped seamed metal shed roof.

Interior Description

The second floor bedrooms in Building 14 are served by two separate staircases. Thus, the bedrooms remain divided as originally designed to limit interaction between the chaplain and housekeeper. A door linking the two bedroom areas has since been installed. Interior trim is plain, and interior doors are four panel.

Building 16 Protestant Chaplain's Quarters 1901

Contributing / DOE

Architect: Unknown Style: Vernacular frame residence

Exterior Description

Building 16 is an irregularly-shaped vernacular house that faces east. The two-story house has a full basement. The partially exposed basement of the main section of the house has a brick foundation. The foundation for the extension on the west side is concrete block. Both are painted gray. The bearing walls are wood frame construction and are covered in white clapboard. Examination of the substrate indicated that the original paint color may have been a dark cream. There is a small gable centered on the front, east side with a matching gable on the rear, west side. Both have small rectangular attic louvers.

At the first-floor level on the front facade, east of the gable, is a large porch. It is divided into thirds by square white support columns. The door is reached by six straight wood steps flanked by simple pipe railings. The porch has latticework spanning between the support piers, which are brick covered with wood. The gable extensions have very simple brackets where the ends of the eave meet the vertical 1" x 4" boards at the corners. Porch columns are roughly 8" x 8" square with simple capitals at the top. The porch balustrade has vertical 1½" x 1½" balusters spaced about 5" on center. The front entry was recessed at the corner at one time, but is now enclosed by vertical, beveled siding painted white. The main entrance door is made of wood and glass. A low gable, shingle roof covers a small one story white wood addition, which serves as a back door entry on the rear west facade at the northwest corner. The rear door itself is flush wood, and has a wood and glass storm door. It is accessible by six wooden steps with pipe railings on either side. The west side also has a sloped, wood plank, hatch door opening into the basement.

On the east facade is a large double-hung window centered below the gable. Above that is a similar window with the upper third blocked up for a vent. The south facade has double-hung windows on both floors that are equidistant from the chimney. The remaining windows are similar, but vary in size. Window heads have simple caps with a small crown molding at the top.

The gabled, green, composition shingle roof has a separate gable over the front wing. The side gable roof continues down to meet a flat roof over the front porch. The south facade has a slightly off center brick chimney extending up the side of the house through the eaves of the gabled roof. The brick of the chimney is painted a deep red. A second chimney extends through the roof near the center of the north end.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 7 Page 19

National Soldiers Home Historic District
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Interior Description

The stairway of Building 16 has turned balusters and square newel posts with finials. A fireplace in the living room is faced with tile and has a wood mantle. The woodwork is plain boards with a slight edge. The floors are carpeted, and ceilings and walls are plastered.

Building 17 Surgeon and Adjutant's Quarters 1887

Contributing / DOE

Architect: Unknown Style: Shingle Style

Exterior Description

Building 17 is a duplex building three stories in height. The two units have virtually identical interiors that face away from each other. The foundation is partially exposed random coursed, rough stone. The bearing walls are wood construction covered with white clapboard and shingles. At the first level the building is covered in white drop siding. At the top of the first floor level there is a slight flare, and a decorative horizontal band in two parts. The upper part is covered with a smaller crown-type molding running horizontally that dies into a 1" x 8" horizontal board. At the second floor level the large gable ends facing east are made up of 4 1/2" exposure clapboards. Over the window heads the upper part of the gable flares slightly again, and the material changes to shingles with a 4 1/2" exposure.

The unit facing north has a one story, flat-roofed porch on the northeast corner that serves as an entryway. The entrance is on the east side of the porch and is accessible by four wood steps with a black pipe-railings. The porch decks are 1" x 4" tongue and groove gray painted boards. Lattice works spans between the porch supports, which are covered by wood. The porch handrails has a heavy banister with a balustrade of 1 1/2" x 1 1/2" vertical, square, undecorated supports spaced about 4 or 5 inches on center. The porch columns are 8" x 8" square with chamfered edges and capitals made of half-round elements and reverse-cove elements. Decorative brackets extend from the column faces to support the overhang of the porch roof. The entrance to the unit facing south is through a slightly larger, one-story, flat-roofed, open veranda stretching across the entire south facade. Five wooden steps flanked with simple, black pipe-railings rise to the veranda. The porch and veranda are surrounded by a simple white railing with small, square, wood balusters.

Small open porches with simple handrails of 2" x 4" posts and 1 v x 4" vertical boards for balusters serve the back exits. The wood decking is 1" x 4" wood boards. Low shed roofs cover each of the rear entrance doors. The doors are horizontally paneled with two vertical glass lights at the upper section. On the west facade at the north and east corners are enclosed entrances to the basement with small shed roofs covered in composition shingles. Simple cove molding is at the eaves. Doors are two-panel with four-glass lights at the upper section. The ends of the eaves at the west end have large, reverse curve brackets, unpierced. The eave extends about 1 1/2' and the rafter's supports are exposed.

The first and second floors have tall, large-paned, double-hung windows of various widths. At the second floor the windows are set at a 45-degree angle into the corners of the wings. Above the diagonal windows are scroll brackets with a pendant at the corner. The windows on the third floor are similar in style, but considerable smaller. They are grouped together in pairs and triples, and topped by a small, common entablature. At the north facade, second-floor level, is a projecting three-sided bay with a single-pane, double-hung window in each side. The remaining fenestration is varied.

The most striking feature visible from the south roadway is the huge extended gable roof, reminiscent of the Shingle Style. It rises more than two stories from the roofs of the exterior porches to a ridge above the attic. The entire multi-gabled roof is finished in green composition shingles, laid butt-edged. On both front sides, there are large gables that project from the larger main gable and crown three story wings. The west side has a large gable that occurs only at the third level. Both the porch and

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 7 Page 20

National Soldiers Home Historic District
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

in half by a tall brick chimney accented with two, decorative vertical brick ridges set at a diagonal to the face of the chimney. In addition, there is a chimney at the north and south end of each of the two wings. A fourth one is in the middle of the building. A steel-gray painted fire escape leads from the third floor exits doors, one per each duplex suite, down to grade.

Interior Description

There are entrance halls to two duplicate units within Building 17. The main stairs, and rear stairs off the kitchen, are set side by side in the units. Most doors have transoms and original hardware. The north unit has a fireplace with decorative tile facing and hearth. The V.A. is making renovations to the interior of this building to create living space for homeless veterans in late 2004 and 2005. The Wisconsin State Historic Preservation Officer believes renovations will be in keeping with the historic integrity of the interior of this building.

Building 18 Quarters 1916

Contributing / DOE

Architect: Unknown Style: Colonial Revival

Exterior Description

Building 18 is a three level duplex structure oriented with the main facade to the southwest. Each duplex unit is a mirror image of the other, and there is no visible division on the exterior. The basement foundation wall is cement block. The rest of the structure is wood-frame construction and finished in white 2½" exposure clapboards.

Each unit is entered near the outside front edge through a low, screened porch with a hipped roof. The porches stretch halfway across each unit and for 2 bays around the sides. The porch columns are 8" x 8" square posts without any decoration. The bottom third of the screening is white clapboard. A lattice covers the porch foundations. Five wood steps with a metal railing lead up to the screen door. Beyond are the wood and glass, single-entry doors. Two open porch decks with simple 4" x 4" and 2" x 4" handrails and supports lead to the rear doors.

Toward the center of the front facade, each unit has a large one-over-one light double-hung window. Above these windows and above the front doors are smaller double-hung windows with one-over-one lights. There are two casement windows for each unit located in the shed dormer. The building's gable ends have randomly spaced windows of various sizes.

The building has a gabled dark gray shingle roof. The gable is broken by a shed dormer on the southwest side that is shared by both units. The roof eaves overhang about 2' and are closed at the bottom with 1" x 3" matched siding. Each unit has a small brick chimney near the center of the building.

Interior Description

The interiors of the duplex units inside Building 18 are similar with natural, medium oak color woodwork and two-panel doors with a square panel on the bottom and larger panel on the top. Most rooms contain a picture rail located one foot below the ceiling. Walls and ceiling are painted or plastered. Each unit has a fireplace set within a niche on the side of the main stairway.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 7 Page 21

National Soldiers Home Historic District
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Building 19 Quarters 1921

Contributing / DOE

Architect: Unknown Style: Colonial Revival

Exterior Description

Building 19 is a two-story duplex building that is oriented to the southwest. The foundation is of poured concrete painted gray. A wide 1" x 12" horizontal board is at the base of clapboards, just above the foundation and has a simple 1" x 2" shed board atop it. The duplex is a wood frame with white horizontal clapboards of 4½" exposure with 1" x 4" vertical corner boards.

A single screened porch, which is partitioned down the center, runs across the front. The center portion of the porch that is in front of both front doors is covered with a flat roof. It is supported with large square white columns. The porch has at its front a trio of 10" square columns with applied 1" x 2" molding at the faces with a simple capitol composed of a flat horizontal board at the top and crown molding beneath. The porch handrails have 1½" x 1½" square plain balusters about 4" on center. The screened porch doors are reached by four wood steps that span between the two white columns. The remainder of the porch has a low hip roof with exposed rafters. It is supported at the corners by triple wood columns connected with a trellis.

The front doors are wood with glass panes. The windows are six-over-six light, double-hung, wood sash windows that are painted black. Above the doors at the second floor is a double, narrow, four-over-four light sash windows. Large windows are located to the side of each entry door at the first floor. They consist of a wide, multi-lighted, double-hung window with narrower double-hung windows on either side. Above these two major windows at the second floor are two, six-over-six light, double-hung windows. Plain, wide, wood frames surround every window. The window trim is simple 1" x 6" flat boards with wood drips at the top. The window spacing and size vary but most windows are in pairs.

The building is topped with a medium hip roof with a flat top. The roof is covered with dark gray composition butt-edged shingles. The front and back roofs each have two half-round dormers with windows within the hip. The roof eaves overhang about 2' and the rafter extension have a simple diagonal cut at the ends. Rafter extensions are a full 2" wide and are spaced 16" on center. The exposed rafters are painted white.

Interior Description

The interiors of the duplex units inside Building 19 are similar with carpeted floors and plastered walls covered with wallpaper. The main stairway in each unit is open and each unit has a fireplace with brick surround, a reddish brown tile hearth and columns on each side of the fireplace. Columns are also on each side of the dining room entry. The dining rooms also have a built-in cabinet.

Building 20 Quartermaster's Storehouse 1895; 1938 addition

Contributing / DOE

Architect: Henry C. Koch Style: Utilitarian

Exterior Description

Building 20 was constructed in 1895-96. A second section to the east was added in 1938. It is a multipurpose warehouse, garage and maintenance-shop building. The building is actually two rectangular buildings connected by a narrow passage.

West Section:

The western section is four stories in height including a basement level and a ½-story attic. The ground level on the south side is at the second story level. It is constructed of multi-toned, cream, common-bond brick with no headers.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 7 Page 22

National Soldiers Home Historic District
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

On the western facade, at the lowest level, are three garage doors to the left. They have wood-paneled overhead doors that have one or two rows of windowpanes. On the right half is a metal and glass personnel door covered with a fixed metal awning. Farther to the right are three windows and a window opening with a louver.

The south facade has bays separated by attached brick pilasters, which enclose a series of double-hung windows with elliptical heads, stone sills and brick piers between. At the third floor level are single, elliptical-head, double-hung windows boarded up with a composition of materials. Centered on this facade, a pilaster extends up the center of the former to the roof peak, with windows on either side of it. Some of the pairs of windows have been infilled with more recent windows of glass block with ventilating units in them. The windows are located in a partially broken pattern around the building at the second and third floors. The fourth-floor gambrel end has only two windows. All the windows are four-over-four light sash windows with elliptical brick arches and stone sills.

The roof is of a gambrel shape. The eave has a very simple cornice with an ogee molding at the edge. Centered on the south facade is a large dormer with a gable roof. A multi-toned brick chimney rises above the roof slightly off center to the south.

West Interior Description: The flooring in the west wing is narrow maple that has been mostly covered with resilient tile. The walls are brick and ceiling is exposed wood.

East Section Exterior:

The east section is also of cream brick that is a slightly different color than the west section. Above the second level is a cut-stone, horizontal band that steps out from the facade of the building about 1". The east section has three levels on the south facade. This facade has a concrete loading dock, and a railroad spur along the side of the building. The railroad tracks run about 50' to the south of the south facade.

The north facade is similar in treatment to the south facade except for the overhead panel doors at the basement level. On the north facade is a low concrete loading dock with a pair of doors. The south facade has square windows. Each window has an awning-sash section and fixed-sash section. The rest of the windows vary in size and shape but all are double-hung.

There is a flat roof on this building and a stone coping about 6" deep at the top of the parapet.

East Section Interior Description: The east section and connecting link have concrete floors and ceilings and painted brick walls.

Building 37 Quarters 1902

Contributing / DOE

Architect: Unknown Style: Vernacular

Exterior Description

Building 37 is a rectangular three story single-family house. The foundation is of concrete block with a textured face. Some areas appear to be either poured concrete or plaster over the concrete block. The foundation is painted green. Above the foundation is a water table board with a sloped top to shed water. The house is wood frame construction and is finished in white narrow clapboards of about 2½" exposure. The corners have 1" x 6" vertical boards.

The building has a protruding one-story screened entry porch that is covered with a shed roof. The porch is wider than the entry door and is not centered on it. The porch door is to the left and reached by five wood steps. The remainder of the porch has an interior, white, wood railing. The foundation of the porch is covered by vertical 1" x 2" wood slats. The front entrance door is wood and glass. The back of the house has a two-level enclosure that is covered with a shed roof. The part on the left is open

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 7 Page 23

National Soldiers Home Historic District
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

with a square column in the corner and cove brackets supporting the cornice beam. To the right is a clapboard-enclosed section with a single, double-hung window off center on the east facade.

There are several types of windows on the house. Each pediment has a four-sash window. A cove molding extends over these windows. The two windows on each side of the front door are larger, single-paned, double-hung windows with rectangular, mullioned transoms. The second floor windows are double-hung with three vertical lights in the upper part and a single light in the lower part. On the main floor, the windows are double hung with a large light in the lower sash and six vertical lights in the upper section. These windows occur on the south facade and the west facade. The remaining windows are two-over-one light sash windows. All the window sashes are painted black. Windows have aluminum combination storms. Window trim is 1" x 6" flat trim with no ornamentation.

The building is topped with a gable roof. A cross gable extends to the center of the front facade. All the gables form pediments, as the cornice encircles the entire structure. The roof is covered with light green composition shingles. There are two tall rectangular chimneys with concrete caps that have been plastered over and are painted brown. There is also a brick chimney that rises above the roof at the right rear.

Building 39 Governor's House 1867-68

Contributing / DOE

Architect: Edward Townsend Mix Style: Victorian Italianate with Queen Anne modifications

Exterior Description

Building 39 is the Medical Center Director's Quarters. It is an irregular shaped three-story house that has been finished in a variety of materials. It exhibits many of the characteristics of the Victorian Italianate style. The first two floors are constructed of cream brick in a running bond pattern with no header course. Above the second floor level is a wide overhang cornice, extending about a foot at the west, and above this is the gable covered in fish-scale and convex-edged shingles with alternating bands of horizontal butt shingles. All the wood siding and shingles are painted white and the trim is painted a cream color. The third floor is hidden beneath the steep, gabled roof, the major portion of which extends front to rear. There are wings on either side near the rear. They both have cross-gable roofs. A paneled garage door is at the basement level in the rear of the building. This is reached by a blacktop parking area with concrete retaining walls. A turret is located on the northwest corner. It is hexagonal in shape and is topped with a hexagonal tent roof. The turret rises above a large corner bay. To the right of the corner bay is a smaller, three-sided window bay that extends two stories and ends with a flat entablature. On the east facade is a five-sided brick bay.

The main entry is through an enclosed winterized porch. The porch is a large rectangular porch that extends from the front facade back to the rear wing at the right. It is one story in height. Square, wood columns with spanning arches create bays in addition to supporting the flat roof deck topped with white railings. The front side of the porch has two bays, and it extends back three bays. The bays have been filled in with a foot high concrete wall and windows. Each bay has three hinged windows topped by fixed transoms. Originally, the windows were only screens. The entrance door, which is a wood and glass door protected by a screen door, is at the center of the left bay at the front. Only two concrete steps rise from grade, but the steps are flanked by large flower planters. The columns on either side of the door have carriage-lantern lights. The rear entrance is enclosed by a one story, brick enclosure with a hipped roof. The enclosure has a small, almost square, double-hung window. Three concrete steps lead up to the rear door on the north.

The center windows on the west bay are fixed single-pane windows with large half-elliptical transoms. The west end gable has two tall four-over-four light double-hung windows that have semi-circular arched window heads. There is horizontal stone coursing that continues under groups of windows, particularly on the west bay. The first floor level of the north facade has a large single pane window. At the second floor level are two elliptical double-hung four-over-four light sash windows that are topped

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 7 Page 24

National Soldiers Home Historic District
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

is circled with a projecting brick course which extends out from the face of the brick about 1/2". On the portion of the east bay parallel to the west wall are elliptical arches with soldier course brick that top a pair of windows. Flanking them are tall double-hung windows with elliptical arches. Centered at the second floor level of the bay is a large single pane window about as wide as the two windows below. The window has a leaded glass transom light with abstract floral motifs set within a half round center. Some sections of the glass are cranberry and amber colored. The remaining windows throughout the residence are basically varying sizes of one-over-one double-hung windows. The windows are covered with combination aluminum storms.

The gable roof is covered with dark, charcoal grey, composition shingles. At the eave line is a cove shaped bracketed cornice extending out about a 1 1/2". There are two centrally located tall brick chimneys. On the east facade at the roof edge is a tall, cross-shaped brick chimney that is painted green and it has a concrete cap.

Interior Description

The main stairway of Building 39 is walnut newel post and handrail with white painted balusters. There are fireplaces, all with marble surrounds and hearths, in the living room, dining room and study. Most of the hardware in Building 39 is original, including some porcelain knobs. Most floors are carpeted and walls plastered with wallpaper coverings.

Building 41 Ward Memorial Hall 1881; 1895-97 NRHP

Architect: Henry C. Koch Style: Victorian Gothic

Exterior Description

Building 41 is Ward Memorial Hall. The two-story theater has a partial basement but no accessible attic. The building is basically a rectangular shape with the main entrance facing south. On the east side there is a small wing projection used for backstage passage. On both the east and west sides near the front is a small bay used for stairs. There is an entry pavilion in the front between the bays. There is also an irregular one-story wing on the west toward the rear of the building used for backstage dressing facilities. The facade is multi-toned brick and tile. The brick work is two-toned cream brick. There are also several inset red tile diamond motifs in the brick work. Horizontal bands of single, double or triple brick also occur in red tile. Dentil-type corbelling in brick is located under the eaves of the two southern bay extensions.

A one-story veranda wraps around the front, east and north sides of the theater. It conforms to the many planes of the facade. It is constructed entirely of wood, and has a hipped roof. The roof is supported by square, decorative columns with chamfered and flared capitals containing simplified leaf patterns. They are spanned by fancy open-lattice railing. The veranda apron is a fine lattice paneling. The wide main entrance opening is crowned with a clipped gable roof in the veranda. The main steps are very wide and have sixteen wood risers. The two side openings with steps have a small open gable with ornate bracing. The veranda is supported on square brick piers that are covered entirely with vertical 1" x 6" matched boards on the outside. Spanning the piers is a latticework screen trimmed in 1" x 4" boards at the sides and top, and 1" x 8" boards at the bottom. The porch decking is tongue and groove 1" x 6" boards. Porch trim work is now painted brown.

The main entry is centered in the pavilion on the south side of the building. The entrance doors are double doors paneled in six vertical panels. The doors are recessed about 3" within three brick arches and have transoms above them. Two similar brick arches with windows flank the doorway. Over the entrance and above the veranda roof is an oblong stone with carved letters spelling "WARD MEMORIAL HALL" in raised block lettering. Metal fire escapes extend from the balcony level at the east and west sides of the building. One leads directly to the grade where there is no porch, and the other, on the east, extends through the roof of the porch onto the porch level.

On the south facade centered over the door are four, two-over-two light sash windows with stone lintels. Above them is a large Palladian window. At the top section of the center section of the Palladian window are stained-glass sections. On the south-facing wall of each side bay at the second floor level is a bull's eye window with decorative, red brick banding around it. The window

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 7 Page 25

National Soldiers Home Historic District
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

on the east bay is composed of four glass sections. The one on the west side is covered with plywood. The main set of windows on the side are at the second story level. They are tall, evenly spaced six-over-six light sash windows topped with elliptical, leaded-glass windows mullioned in a diamond pattern. An elliptical brick arch tops each one. The openings at the first level are similarly spaced but are occupied by wood panel doors and six-over-six light sash windows. The windows have red tile inset in decorative motifs at window heads and radiating voussoirs. A large stained-glass window is located on the east facade above the porch roof. It depicts General Grant on horseback.

The building is topped with a steep gabled roof that extends front to rear. Smaller gables extend over the left and right wings. Shorter polygonal hipped roofs project over the front side bays. The roofs are covered with green composition shingles. The front gable has a tri-tone checkered brick pattern in the peak. All of the gables have decorative, carved stone parapets with finials at the tip. The west wing of the building has a hipped roof leading to a large, corbelled chimney about 8' high with inset and protruding brick patterns. At the peak of the main roof are two circular metal ventilating units. Early photographs show very tall chimneys on the building but they have since been removed.

Interior Description.

The interior of the Ward Theater is frescoed in New Renaissance style, characterized by round arches and symmetrically placed windows. The ceiling, divided into panels, was originally decorated with peacock plumage that was covered with blue sheet metal elliptical shell during an 1898 renovation. The theater has a stepped floor to the orchestra level and steeply stepped balcony at the rear. Box seats, framed with ornamental plaster columns and cornices, line both sides, and both stories, of the auditorium. There is an enclosed projection booth in the balcony. Chairs are plywood on cast iron. Most hardware appears original. A Soliders Home emblem was painted at the top of the proscenium by WPA workers during The Great Depression. These workers also painted Wisconsin scenes on asbestos sound tiles in the back of the theater's main floor.

Building 43 Hospital Annex 1923-33

Contributing

Architect: Unknown

Style: Colonial Revival (Veterans Administration "Architectural Set")

Exterior Description

Building 43 is a three-story building with half of the basement above grade. The foundation level is random coursed split-face stone. At the water table is a 1' wide carved stone course running horizontally with a large ogee molding at its base. The building is of red, terracotta colored, non-textured brick, laid running-bond pattern with a header course every sixth course. There is a decorative stone horizontal band similar to the water table stone work located at the centers of the recesses surrounding the windows. The top of the parapet has a stone trim. There is a one-story wing extending to the northwest of the building that has a concrete foundation and a flat roof.

The main entrance of the building is up a half level and is reached by ten granite steps. A projecting flat roofed pavilion surrounds the main entrance. Between the massive square columns supporting the roof are solid stone balustrade with cut stone topping. Each balustrade is about two feet wide. The pavilion floor is poured concrete. The ceiling is textured plaster. A pendant light fixture in a lantern shape hangs above the entrance door. The door is surrounded by simple stone trim flush with the face of the brick work at the sides and alternating brick and stone coursing at the head. The door frame is encircled by a decorative stone band about 6" wide with stylized floral work at the base. Above the entrance door is a low arch with a keystone. The entrance doors are frameless glass. A sign above the pavilion at the parapet says "Hospital Annex" in metal letters, block lettering. Above the pavilion at the east facade of the building is a projecting section that has a gabled parapet with carved stone coping at the top. A second entrance to the building faces northeast. It has trim probably dating to the original construction.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 7 Page 26

National Soldiers Home Historic District
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

a pressed metal ceiling at the entrance and decorative metal cornice work at the sides of the ceiling. The ceiling is comprised of rectangular panels of various motifs. The edges of this roof have metal, floral cresting and are bent out of shape.

The first and second story windows are set in recesses in the brick that encase six pairs of double-hung, aluminum windows with transoms spanning each pair of windows. The transoms have grey panels inside them. On each side of the main doors are a pair of double-hung windows with a transom spanning each set of two windows. The wing also has double-hung windows some of which are in pairs. Some windows have transoms with solid panels above them. On the east facade above the entrance at the fourth floor level is a single double-hung window with a stone, eyebrow lintel with a keystone flush with the face of the brick. On either side are two deep-set, circular windows with keystone at the four corners, and radiating brick set on end. All the windows have natural finish aluminum sashes. All the windows are later replacements to the 1932 originals. At the roof level of the central section of the building is a fourth floor topped by a hipped roof of dark grey composition shingles.

Interior Description

A main corridor runs the length of Building 43, with open stairs in the center and on both ends of the corridor. Interior doors and frames are metal, walls are plaster and floors are covered with resilient tile.

Building 45 Power Plant 1895

Contributing / DOE

Architect: Unknown Style: Utilitarian

Exterior Description

Building 45 is in the shape of a "T" with the base slightly off center. The west "L"-shaped portion is three stories high. The foundation is poured concrete with a rough-cut stone band where the foundation meets the wall. The bearing walls are constructed of cream brick in common-bond coursing with headers every seventh course. The walls have engaged brick columns that form bays. Two bays have double, barn wood doors in place of the pair of windows.

There are two window openings per bay along the sides of the building. These are tall four-over-four light, double-hung windows with elliptical brick arches and stone sills. At the second level on the ends of the building are shorter but similar windows that are one per bay. Above the windows at the sides are recessed brick panels. On the north facade all the window openings are boarded up. The three-story section at the west has smaller pairs of windows at three levels between engaged brick pilasters that form three large panels on the south facade. Many of the windows are boarded up. The smaller windows located around the top are fitted with six panes, and paired.

The easterly section has a gabled roof with a few gabled cupolas that have side louvers. The west wing has a small, fourth-floor, penthouse machine room. The roofing is green composition shingles. One chimney stack is concrete and the other chimney to the west is brick.

Interior Description

The southern section of Building 45 has a brick floor; the rest of the floors are concrete. Walls are painted brick. A steel roof truss system supports a wood roof deck. The upper floor of the building contains a 20-foot diameter turbine used to generate power as well as the accompanying switchboard. The west wing contains some coal hoppers. The V.A. utilizes some space in the lower west wing for salt storage. The Power Plant's 1922 smokestack, listed in the 1992 National Register application, was demolished by the V.A. in the mid-1990s.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 7 Page 27

National Soldiers Home Historic District
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Building 49 and 50 Quarters 1908-09

Contributing / DOE

Architect: Unknown Style: Vernacular

Exterior Description

Buildings 49 and 50 are virtually identical. They are rectangular two-story duplexes with attics. The foundations are brick that have been painted grey. The bearing walls are wood frame construction that are covered in 4½" exposure white clapboard.

A single screened porch runs across the entire front of each building. The porch is divided in half by a partition having beveled-edge, vertical boards with latticework on top. Inside the screen is a white balustrade. The balustrade is comprised of grooved 1½" square balusters spaced about 9" apart. The porch decking is 6" wide tongue and groove boards. The porch posts are turned wood columns. There is latticework underneath the porch decking. The screened entry doors are located at the outside edges of the front as are the main front doors beyond. The entry doors are wood with multi-paned window. At the center of the rear of the building is a shed roof extension containing two paneled doors with screen doors. These extensions are covered with matched 1" x 4" vertical boards.

All the windows are tall, double-hung, one-over-one light sash. Double windows are located on both units on the first level between the front doors. A single window is centered over each duplex at the front on the second floor. Near the center at the attic level are two small square windows that have been filled with wood panels. Window treatments on the sides and rear are similar but the placement is asymmetrical. All the windows are covered with aluminum storms.

The gambrel roofs extend the length of the buildings from front to rear. The roofing on the gambrel roofs and shed roof extensions is light grey composition shingles. The eave trim is crown molding on a vertical board about 10" deep. The square chimneys are red brick with a concrete cap.

Interior Description

Both Buildings 49 & 50 have semi-open staircases off the dining room that have turned balusters and double newel post. The front doors have a single lower panel and twelve light windows on top. The windows have flat wood trim, and ceiling and walls are painted plaster.

Building 57 Cemetery Reception House 1900

Contributing / DOE

Architect: Unknown Style: Utilitarian

Exterior Description

Building 57 is situated at a turn in a road on the northwest edge of Wood National Cemetery. It is a small one room, one story, octagonal-shaped building. The base of the structure is poured concrete. The exterior walls are composed of cast concrete block laid in regular courses. Each rough faced block has an incised line dividing the block into a larger rectangle and a long narrow rectangle. These are laid with narrow rectangle on the bottom and then, alternately, at the top of the block.

The north side has a white, flush wood door with a large, modern aluminum kickplate. Three sides each have one screened double-hung window. The windows have a black painted sash with a single light above and below and flat white painted trim. They are covered on the inside with plywood. The windowsills and the lintels are poured concrete.

The structure is covered with a tent roof. The roof is seamed metal, which is painted green and has a ball finial at the top. The cornice at the edge of the roof extends out about 8" and has a molding underneath where it hits the concrete block. A small brick chimney that has been painted green is located on the east side of the building.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 7 Page 28

National Soldiers Home Historic District
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Building 60 Garage 1938

Contributing

Architect: Unknown Style: Utilitarian

Exterior Description

Building 60 is a two-bay garage located directly east of Building 39. The bay doors each have three vertical panels with four light windows at the top. The doors and trim are painted white. The garage has a shed roof covered with composition roll roofing. The interior has a concrete foundation and structural clay tile walls.

Building 62 Quarters 1922

Contributing

Architect: Unknown Style: Colonial Revival features

Exterior Description

Building 62 is very similar to Building 19. A porch stretches across the southwesterly facing facade. The porch has "X"-shaped latticework between the corner columns, which are arranged in sets of threes. The porch has a low gable roof at its center. On the gable end of the porch are 4½" exposure horizontal clapboards. The porch decking is 1" x 4" tongue and groove boards. Five risers lead to the porch deck from grade. At the rear left side is a series of three casement windows with six-pane sash. The back doors have open deck wood porches. Leading to each porch are four wood steps. The porch decks are painted green.

The entrance doors on the front of the building have two horizontal panels at the bottom and a nine light glass section at the top. On either side of the door is a grouping of three windows. There is a large eight-over-eight light double-hung window that has two tall four-over-four light narrow windows flanking it on either side. The front also has a six-over-six double-hung window on a very shallow bay. The rear of this building has various sized windows either single or in groups of two or three.

The main roof is a hipped with a flat section at the top. Diagonal cut rafters support the eaves. The roof has round dormers with windows. On the front facade is a chimney with corbelling at the top and a concrete cap. The chimney is made of a dark buff multi-colored brick.

Interior Description

There are two stairways in Building 62, a main staircase off the living room and a narrow, winding staircase leading from the kitchen. There is a fireplace set into a niche next to the main staircase. Most rooms have picture rail located about one foot below the ceiling. Ceilings and walls are plastered.

Building 64 Garage 1938

Contributing

Architect: Unknown Style: Utilitarian

Exterior Description

Building 64 is a six-bay garage located behind Buildings 18, 19 and 62. The six bay doors each have three vertical panels with four light windows at the top. The doors and trim are painted white. The garage has a shed roof covered with composition roll roofing. The interior has a concrete foundation and structural clay tile walls, with wooden wall stall dividers.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 7 Page 29

National Soldiers Home Historic District
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Building 73 Garage 1935

Contributing

Architect: Unknown Style: Utilitarian

Exterior Description

Building 73 is a two-bay garage located behind Building 16. The two bay doors each have three vertical panels with four light windows at the top. The doors and trim are painted white. The garage has a shed roof covered with composition roll roofing. It has a concrete foundation and structural clay tile walls.

Building 74 Garage 1938

Contributing

Architect: Unknown Style: Utilitarian

Exterior Description

Building 74 is a six-bay garage located directly west of Building 17. The bay doors each have three vertical panels with four light windows at the top. The doors and trim are painted white. The garage has a shed roof covered with composition roll roofing. It has a concrete foundation and structural clay tile walls.

Building 75 Cemetery Comfort Station 1928

Contributing

Architect: Unknown Style: Utilitarian

Exterior Description

Building 75 is a public restroom, located southwest of Building 57, in Wood National Cemetery. It is a wood frame building covered with white horizontal cement asbestos siding and plain white trim. The doors are flush wood that has been painted white. The building is topped with a hipped roof, which is covered with green roll roofing.

Building 81 Garage 1935

Contributing

Architect: Unknown Style: Utilitarian

Exterior Description

Building 81 is a two-bay garage located northeast of Building 40 and west of Lake Wheeler. The bay doors each have three vertical panels with four light windows at the top. The doors and trim are painted white. The garage has a shed roof covered with composition roll roofing. It has a concrete foundation and structural clay tile walls.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 7 Page 30

National Soldiers Home Historic District
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Building 84 Garage 1938

Contributing

Architect: Unknown Style: Utilitarian

Exterior Description

Building 84 is a seven-bay garage located behind Buildings 49 and 50. The seven bay doors each have three vertical panels with four light windows at the top. The doors and trim are painted white. The garage has a shed roof covered with composition roll roofing. It has a concrete foundation and structural clay tile walls.

Building 95 Garage 1938

Contributing

Architect: Unknown Style: Utilitarian

Exterior Description

Building 95 is a eight-bay garage located northwest of Building 14 and south of Building 96. The eight bay doors each have three vertical panels with four light windows at the top. The doors and trim are painted white. The garage has a shed roof covered with composition roll roofing. It has a concrete foundation and structural clay tile walls.

Building 96 Garage 1939

Contributing

Architect: Unknown Style: Utilitarian

Exterior Description

Building 96 is a 16-bay garage located directly north of Building 95. The 16 bay doors each have three vertical panels with four light windows at the top. The doors and trim are painted white. The garage has a shed roof covered with composition roll roofing. It has a concrete foundation and structural clay tile walls with wooden wall stall dividers.

Building 97 Paint Shop 1938

Contributing

Architect: Unknown Style: Utilitarian

Exterior Description

Building 97 has cream brick exterior bearing walls and is covered with a flat roof. It is located north of Paint Shop Road directly east of Building No. 20. A parking area off of Workshop Road is to the north and Building No. T-107 is to the east.

Building 99 Garage 1941

Contributing

Architect: Unknown Style: Utilitarian

Exterior Description

Building 99 is a five-bay garage located behind Building 20. The five bay doors each have three vertical panels with four light windows at the top. The doors and trim are painted white. The garage has a shed roof covered with composition roll roofing. It has a concrete foundation and structural clay tile walls with wooden wall stall dividers.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 7 Page 31

National Soldiers Home Historic District
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Building 102, Laundry 1955

Contributing

Architect: Unknown Style: Utilitarian

A flat-roofed red brick building on a concrete slab located south of the railroad tracks on Lake Wheeler Drive. The approximately 4,551 square foot building has 2 loading docks and bays as well as two-story front office section (encompassing approximately 735 square feet).

Buildings T-105, T-106, & T-107 Quonset Huts 1947

Contributing

Architect: Unknown Style: Utilitarian

These Maintenance Group storage sheds are 20' by 50' half moon-shaped structures built from corrugated steel in World War II military style. The floors are concrete.

Buildings T-114 & T-119, Quonset Huts 1948

Contributing

Architect: Unknown Style: Utilitarian

The Maintenance Group storage shed (T-114) and the Cemetery Tool House (T-119) are each 20' by 50' half moon-shaped structures built from corrugated steel in World War II military style. The floors are concrete.

OBJECTS

1) Hiker Monument, 1941

Contributing

The bronze Hiker Monument is a memorial to U.S. Spanish-American War veterans, Department of Wisconsin Camps and its Auxiliaries in 1941.³⁵ The bronze statue depicts a soldier holding a rifle facing Building 43. It is set on a square stone base about 3' high and 4' per side. The stone base is set upon a concrete slab about 12' square with four low walls at each corner. Inset in the base is a metal plaque stating "the Volunteer, 98" The inscription reads: "He stood at the curb reflecting as the boys were marching by, he heard the drums and saw the flag and a gleam was in his eye ... 'Twas the universal spirit with the boys of 98."³⁶

2) Fountain, 1870; 1934,

Contributing

The fountain is located directly across General Mitchell Boulevard from the entrance to the Main Building. It is made up of a circular basin from the center of which rises a pedestal, which supports a female figure lifting an urn over her head. The fountain is the oldest landscape furnishing which remains on the grounds. It is similar in style to the 19th-century fountain created by Caspar Hennecke Company of Milwaukee for the original Milwaukee County Courthouse.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 7 Page 32

National Soldiers Home Historic District
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

3) Soldiers and Sailors Monument/Cemetery Monument 1903

Contributing

Architect: Unknown **Style:** [commemorative sculpture]

The Soldiers and Sailors Monument is an obelisk form topped with a bronze figure of a Civil War soldier at rest. The monument stands 65 feet tall upon a 12' by 12' New England granite base and weighs 85 tons. Fourteen cannonballs are stacked in pyramids at the cut out corners of the base.

SITES

1) Wood National Cemetery, 1871

Contributing

Wood National Cemetery is a 50.1-acre federal military cemetery, dedicated May 22, 1871, located on the grounds of the Veterans Affairs Medical Center, running between the eastern edge of the district's main cluster of historic buildings and the western boundary of the medical center grounds. The majority of the Cemetery, 41.1 acres, rests within the boundaries of the National Soldiers Home Historic District. The largest section of the in-district portion, 36.1 acres, lies along the western border of the historic district, west of the main cluster of buildings. Approximately 5 additional acres of Wood National Cemetery rests within the district but across I-94, north of the main cluster of buildings, along General Mitchell Boulevard. Combined, the two in-district sections of Wood National Cemetery house more than 30,000 upright, white granite headstone grave markers. An additional 9 acres of cemetery, featuring some 6,000 newer, flat granite headstone grave markers, rests outside of the National Soldiers Home Historic District, south of Buildings 102 and 40 and north of N. Washington Drive, along the medical centers southwest boundary.³⁷

All of the contributing historic cemetery buildings lie within the National Soldiers Home Historic District, including the 1900 Cemetery Reception House (Building 57) and 1928 Cemetery Comfort Station (Building 75). The 41.1 acres of cemetery within the district is home to more than 30,000 graves, which are visible from nearly every building in the district. Each grave is numbered and bears the name of the veteran buried there, date of death and dates of military service. Graves in the district mark the final resting places of veterans from the War of 1812 up to the current wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.³⁸ Additionally, the Cemetery features eight bronze plaques with verses of the poem "The Bivouac of the Dead," displayed on stone mounts and scattered throughout the Cemetery. Other cemetery plaques include two bronze tablets presented to the National Home in 1881.³⁹ One displays the Gettysburg Address; the other, the Declaration of Independence.

2) Historic Archeological Sites, 1989

3 Contributing Sites

Three historic archeological sites have been excavated within the district grounds.⁴⁰ In addition to yielding artifacts pertaining to prehistoric life in the Menomonee Valley in which the National Soldiers Home Historic District is located, two of the sites have yielded many veteran and hospital related historic items from the historic district's period of significance.

One of the historic sites is located along the historic district's northeastern edge of the bluff boundary with Miller Park. Site B is a 40-meter by 15-meter site, located east of the Powder Magazine and north of Building 2, on a ridge just east of a parking lot area. Excavations uncovered 17 historic items including a late 1800s kaolin pipe stem and pre-20th century lead bullet. Site C is a 50-meter by 20-meter site, located on a small rise across the railroad tracks to the south of Building 97 on the west side of Red Arrow Road. Excavations uncovered 8 historic items, including late 1800s glass, earthenware and a small bullet casing.

3) The Silurian Rock Reef, 1834 (NHL)

Contributing

Contributing This 400 million year old, intact ocean fossil reef is a National Historic Landmark. Discovered in 1834, the 20 meter wide reef spans 120 meters along the district's eastern boundary with the baseball stadium parking lots.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 7 Page 33

National Soldiers Home Historic District
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Inventory

(DOE: resources marked as such were included in the National Register of Historic Places Determination of Eligibility January 9, 1980)

VA Building	Historic Name	Date	Eligibility Status
Building 1	Headquarters Building (DOE)	1895-96	C
Building 2	Main Building (DOE)	1867-69; 1876	C
Building 3	Wadsworth Library (DOE)	1891	C
Building 4	Social Hall (DOE)	1894, 2004-05	C
Building 5	Barracks (DOE)	1884	C
Building 6	Hospital (DOE)	1879	C
Building 7	Barracks (DOE)	1888	C
Building 11	Fire Engine House & Quarters (DOE)	1883	C
Building 12	Chapel (DOE)	1889	C
Building 14	Catholic Chaplain's Quarters (DOE)	1909	C
Building 16	Protestant Chaplain's Quarters (DOE)	1901	C
Building 17	Surgeons' Quarters (DOE)	1887, 2004-05	C
Building 18	Quarters (DOE)	1916	C
Building 19	Quarters (DOE)	1921	C
Building 20	Quartermaster Storehouse (DOE)	1895; 1938	C
Building 37	Quarters (DOE)	1902	C
Building 39	Governor's House (DOE)	1868	C
Building 41	Ward Memorial Hall (NRHP)	1881; 1897	C
Building 43	Hospital Annex	1932-33	C
Building 45	Power Plant (DOE)	1895	C
Building 49	Quarters (DOE)	1908	C
Building 50	Quarters (DOE)	1908	C
Building 53	Powder Magazine (DOE)	1881	NC (1)
Building 57	Cemetery Reception House (DOE)	1900	C
Building 60	Garage	1938	C
Building 62	Quarters	1922	C
Building 64	Garage (Buildings 18,19,62)	1938	C
Building 73	Garage (Building 16)	1935	C (2)
Building 74	Garage (Building 17)	1938	C
Building 75	Cemetery Comfort Station	1928	C
Building 81	Garage	1935	C
Building 84	Garage (Buildings 49,50)	1938	C
Building 93	Garage (Building 37)	1989	C
Building 95	Garage	1938	C

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 7 Page 34

National Soldiers Home Historic District
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Building 96	Garage	1939	C
Building 97	Paint Shop	1938	C
Building 99	Garage (Building 20)	1941	C
Building 102	Laundry	1955	C
Building 107	Engineering Warehouse	1957	NC (3)
Building 108	Engineering Shops	1957	NC (3)
Building 112	Power Plant	1964	NC (3)
Building 119	Incinerator	1973	NC (3)
Building T-105	Quonset Hut (Engineering Storage)	1947	C
Building T-106	Quonset Hut (Supply Storage)	1947	C
Building T-107	Quonset Hut (Supply Storage)	1947	C
Building T-114	Quonset Hut (Storage)	1948	C
Building T-119	Quonset Hut (Cemetery Tool House)	1948	C
OBJECTS			
Hiker Statue		1941	C
Fountain		1870; 1934	C (4)
Soldiers and Sailors Monument	Soldiers and Sailors Monument	1903	C
SITES			
Wood National Cemetery	Federal Military Cemetery	1871	C
Lake Wheeler	Recreation Site	1876, 1966	NC (6)
Silurian Reef	Geological Formation (NHL)	N/A	C
Historic Archeological Sites			
Site A		1989 (5)	C
Site B		1989 (5)	C
Site C		1989 (5)	C

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 35

National Soldiers Home Historic District
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

- (1) The former Powder Magazine is in ruins and is non-contributing due to the loss of architectural integrity.
- (2) Building 73, the garage for Building 16, is dated to 1953 in Engineering Files; however, its appearance is identical to the other 1930s garages.
- (3) Buildings constructed after 1955 do not qualify as contributing resources under National Register of Historic Places guidelines, and they do not fall within the period of significance for the National Soldiers Home Historic District, 1867 - 1955.
- (4) Repaired and remodeled in 1934; *Milwaukee Journal*, November 6, 1934; the fountain is contributing as it has been a landscape feature from the earliest period of significance of the historic district.
- (5) Though the excavation dates of the archaeological sites do not fit within the 50-year parameters of the National Register of Historic Places guidelines, the sites are contributing resources because the artifacts contained within them are of historic significance in that many of the historic artifacts so far unearthed are from the period of significance of the National Soldiers Home Historic District.
- (6) This artificial lake first appears on site maps in 1876, though an exact time of its construction is not reported. It is the only remaining of four artificial lakes constructed for recreation and tranquility on the grounds in the late 1800s. In 1966, it was moved 50 to 100 feet north from its original site in order to build Building 111.

Endnotes

1. Board of Managers of the National Asylum for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers, *Proceedings*, December 7, 1866, p. 7.
2. *Milwaukee Sentinel*, May 18, 1867, p. 1 col. 4.
3. *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*, July 16, 1995, p. 8A.
4. Board of Managers, *Annual Report for 1875*, pp. 27-28.
5. *Milwaukee Sentinel*, August 23, 1879, p. 8 col. 1.
6. Board of Managers, *Proceedings*, September 30, 1883, p. 794.
7. Board of Managers, *Annual Report for 1910*, p. 137.
8. Board of Managers, *Proceedings*, November 17, 1888, p. 208.
9. *Milwaukee Sentinel*, April 28, 1889, p. 12 col. 2.
10. Board of Managers, *Annual Report for 1881*, p. 26.
11. Board of Managers, *Proceedings*, September 9, 1891, p. 430.
12. *Ibid.*
13. Board of Managers, *Proceedings*, April 17, 1895, p. 611.
14. *Inland Architect*, 26/1, August, 1895, p. 10.
15. Engineering Files, Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Milwaukee.
16. Board of Managers, *Proceedings*, 1908, p. 287.
17. Engineering Files, Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Milwaukee.
18. Comparison of 1889 and 1819 photographs in Photo Souvenirs of Northwestern Branch in the files of the director of the Medical Library, Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Milwaukee.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 7 Page 36

National Soldiers Home Historic District
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

19. Engineering Files, Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Milwaukee.
20. Contract for construction in the files of the director of the Medical Library, Veterans Affairs Medical Library, Milwaukee; *Milwaukee Sentinel*, April 28, 1889, p. 12 col. 2.
21. Board of Managers, *Proceedings*, April 20, 1887, p. -131.
22. Board of Managers, *Proceedings*, 1902, p. 16; Annual Report for 1902, p. 76.
23. Board of Managers, *Proceedings*, 1908, p. 287.
24. Board of Managers, *Proceedings*, December 4, 1916, p. 18.
25. Board of Managers, *Proceedings*, March 22, 1921, p. 178.
26. Engineering Files, Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Milwaukee.
27. Ibid.
28. Ibid.
29. Engineering Files, Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Milwaukee.
30. *Milwaukee Journal*, November 6, 1934 (Scrapbook, Medical Library, Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Milwaukee).
31. Inscription on the monument's base.
32. *Milwaukee Journal*, May 26, 1941 (Scrapbook, Medical Library, Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Milwaukee).
33. Clement J. Zablocki Veteran's Administration Medical Center Historic Preservation Plan, January 1, 1992. (Archeology Report on Site Evaluation Studies at Three Prehistoric Sites by Elizabeth D. Benchley, Ph.D., University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Archaeological Research Laboratory.)
34. Archaeological Codification Files, State Historic Society of Wisconsin, Madison, Wis.
35. *Milwaukee Journal*, September 21, 1941 (Scrapbook, Medical Library, Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Milwaukee).
36. Dedication Program, *VA Scrapbook*, 1937-1941, p. 81.
37. Historical Files, Wood National Cemetery, Milwaukee, Wis.
38. Manning, Bob. Maintenance Department. Wood National Cemetery, Milwaukee, Wis., January 2005.
39. Article, *VA Scrapbook*, 1941-1946, p. 17.
40. Clement J. Zablocki Veteran's Administration Medical Center Historic Preservation Plan, January 1, 1992. (Archeology Report on Site Evaluation Studies at Three Prehistoric Sites by Elizabeth d. Benchley, Ph.D., University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee Archaeological Research Laboratory.)
41. Article, *VA Scrapbook*, 1937-1941, p. 38.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 7 Page 37

National Soldiers Home Historic District
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Inventory of Demolished Buildings

(DOE: resources demolished since the National Register of Historic Places Determination of Eligibility January 9, 1980)

VA Building	Historic Name	Date Erected	Eligibility Status
Building 34	Water Meter House	1888	(1)
Building 40	Greenhouse (DOE) (Demolished c. 1994)	1924; 1928; 1936	(2)
Building 104	Flagpole (DOE) (removed)	1945	(2)
Building 106	Smokestack (DOE) (Demolished, c. 1994)	1922	(2)

(1) Resource is not visible and could not be located; date given in Engineering Files, Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Milwaukee.

(2) The smokestack and greenhouse were demolished by the V.A. between 1993 and 1996. Engineering records did not note the dates of the flagpole removal or garage (Buildings 81, 95 and 96) demolitions, though the flagpole was last used in the late 1980s. However, all the aforementioned structures are non-contributing due to the loss of their architectural integrity.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 8 Page 38

National Soldiers Home Historic District
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Northwestern Branch of the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers is being nominated to the National Register of Historic Places under National Register criteria A and C as a district of potential national significance. Research designed to assess the district's potential for nomination was undertaken using the National Register categories of areas of significance of Social History, Health/Medicine, Politics/Government, and Architecture. The Northwestern Branch of the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers Historic District is nationally significant under Criterion A as an intact collection of resources which documents the origin and evolution of the care of disabled veterans as a national program of the Federal government from the immediate post-Civil War era through the creation and establishment of the Veterans Administration in 1930. The historic district is nationally significant under Criterion C in demonstrating the evolution of institutional buildings for the care of the disabled and aged in the latter part of the nineteenth century and early twentieth century.

The historic district is truly unique in the United States because, of the original three federal soldiers homes/hospitals, it is the only V.A. site that retains its original village setting. The nineteenth century recuperative village setting — believed necessary in the 1800s to enable veterans to be integrated back into society — still stands with the post office (in Building 1), library (Building 3), recreation hall (Building 4), theater (Building 41), chapel (Building 12) and recreation areas like Lake Wheeler, all surrounding Old Main (Building 2), the hospital building (Building 6) and housing barracks (Buildings 5, 7). Most visibly, the historic district is the only V.A. site in the United States that still has its original home, Old Main, standing intact.

The care, domiciliary and service buildings in the historic district also uniquely mirror the changing federal and medical thoughts on care and rehabilitation. For example, the site was originally established for soldier recuperation and to house soldiers who could not return to society. By the 1880s, growing concerns in the general medical community about caring for the nation's elderly coincided with an increasing aged and infirm veteran soldier population. In 1884, the U.S. Congress, reacting in part to the nation's concerns for the elderly, enacted a National Home board-driven recommendation to allow veterans who were disabled by old age or disease to enter the home. Historic district buildings soon reflected the thoughts behind that mandate and increased societal desires for improved and expanded elderly care. In 1883, building modifications included installing an elevator for the Home building (Building 2). Then, after 1884 and beginning with barracks (Building 5), no barracks or domiciliaries on the grounds were built taller than two stories high. As the aging veteran group continued to grow, and the concepts of geriatric medicine expanded, barrack styles were eventually modified to include a kitchen-dining facility so residents would not have to travel far for meals. Additionally, as medical needs increased in the late 1800s and early 1900s, so did on-grounds housing for staff. Quarters for staff were built surrounding the village setting. Many still stand along roads leading into the main village, including houses for surgeons (Building 17), chaplains (Buildings 14, 16) and Home staff (Buildings 18, 19, 37, 49, 50).

Outbuildings also reflected evolving and expanding health care by addressing the changing service and support needs of hospital and home. For example, a need to modernize the district with heating and lighting was met by the completion of the power house (Building 45) in 1895. The stone quartermaster house was built that same year to accommodate a growing demand for supply storage. Additionally, the National Home constructed garages in the 1930s to house the service trucks and automobiles that had replaced horse-drawn carriages and wagons. Growing storage and maintenance needs were again addressed in the 1940s when Quonset Huts were built to accommodate post-World War II service increases.

Furthermore, many buildings in the historic district embody a range of architectural styles and were designed by prominent architects, including Edward Townsend Mix and Henry C. Koch. The historic district includes one of the few examples of Ruskinian Victorian Gothic architecture in the Midwest.

The national significance of the historic district is not confined to the walls of its recuperative village and buildings, however. A significant part of the historic value of the National Home site lies beneath the granite headstones in Wood National Cemetery, designed by famed landscaper Thomas Budd Van Home who based upon his design of the National Cemetery at the Gettysburg battlefield. Established in 1871, Wood National Cemetery is second in size of federal military cemeteries only to Arlington National Cemetery in Washington, D.C. The cemetery is the final resting place for veterans who served in every American war from the War of 1812 through today. Most notable are the graves of thousands of Civil War soldiers, including members of the famed 54th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry (the first federal African American unit recruited in the North), as well as

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 8 Page 39

National Soldiers Home Historic District
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

graves of U.S. Colored Troops from Wisconsin and four Medal of Honor recipients. Additionally, cemetery-related buildings within the historic district reflect the changing burial needs of the Home and burial trends in the country. Construction of cemetery reception/comfort buildings in the early 1900s reflected the trend to offer shelter and comfort to the grieving. The 1903 construction of the Soldiers and Sailors Monument, as well as the placement of cemetery plaques, followed veterans' desires to recognize and honor those who had served before and with them. And, construction of a cemetery office building 1955 (demolished in the early 1990s) reflected the need for space to discuss burials with families and the growing trend to offer pre-planning of arrangements with veterans themselves. The building also addressed the historical desire to make cemetery records accessible for research.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 8 Page 40

National Soldiers Home Historic District
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

History

The National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers was established by act of Congress and with the signature of President Abraham Lincoln on March 3, 1865, to provide care for volunteer soldiers who had been disabled through loss of limb, wounds, disease, or injury during service in the Union forces in the Civil War. The National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers was called the National Asylum from the original legislation in 1865 until Congress changed the name in 1873. The term "asylum" was used in the nineteenth century for institutions caring for dependent members of society, such as the insane and the poor, who suffered from temporary conditions that hopefully could be cured or corrected¹. The use of the term indicates that the original planners had anticipated a temporary use of the institution by the veterans. The original intention of the Asylum was to care for veterans until they were restored to health, or retrained for new occupations if unable physically to return to their pre-war jobs. The goal of the Asylum was the return of the disabled veteran to civilian life; once all the veterans had been served, the Asylum would cease to exist.

From the Revolutionary War through the Civil War, the small number of veterans of American wars had three sources of assistance from the Federal government. The vast amounts of land under the control of the government were offered to veterans as land grants for their support after service. The land grant system also benefited the government in encouraging veterans and their families to settle in undeveloped territories of the new nation. In 1833, the Federal government established the Bureau of Pensions, which made small cash payments to veterans; the low numbers of the veteran population and the more attractive offer of free land kept the pension system relatively small until after the Civil War.

The Federal government had established military homes in the first half of the nineteenth century that served as models for the creation of the National Asylum. When these military homes, the United States Sailors' Home and the National Soldiers' Home, had been planned, European military asylums such as the Hotel des Invalides in Paris, built in 1760 by Louis XIV; the Royal Hospital at Chelsea, designed by Christopher Wren in 1682; and the Royal Naval Hospital at Greenwich, a 1694 reworking of an unfinished royal palace, were considered as models.

The United States Navy had been authorized by Congress to establish a permanent shelter for its veterans in 1811, with construction eventually being undertaken in 1827. The United States Sailors' Home, located in Philadelphia as a part of the navy yard, was occupied in 1833. Admission was limited to sailors who had injuries or infirmities resulting from naval service, which prevented them from contributing to their support². The idea of a similar institution for the army was raised by the secretary of war, James Barbour, in 1827, based on the initiative previously taken by the navy³. In his annual message to the President, Barbour argued that such an institution was good policy in making career service more attractive through the provision of an asylum for disabled and aged soldiers; in addition, the nation owed a debt of gratitude to its defenders. In 1851, legislation introduced by Jefferson Davis, senator from Mississippi and former secretary of war as well as a graduate of West Point, was enacted by Congress and funds were appropriated for the creation of the United States Soldiers' Home. The Soldiers' Home was open to all men who were regular or volunteer members of the army with twenty years service and had contributed to its support through pay contributions.

When the Soldiers' Home was being organized in 1851 and 1852, it was intended to have at least four branches with its organization and administration based on the army's command structure and staffed with regular army officers. The Soldiers' Home was managed by a board of commissioners, drawn from active-duty officers; each branch had a governor, deputy governor, and secretary-treasurer; the members were organized into companies and the daily routine followed the military schedule; all members wore uniforms; and workshops were provided for members wanting or required to work⁴. When the National Asylum for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers was being organized in 1866, the National Soldiers' Home assisted the Asylum's board by explaining its regulations and offering suggestions⁵.

The Civil War was the first experience in the history of the United States that was truly national in the involvement of its citizens and in the impact on daily life in communities in both the north and the south. The Civil War was a war of volunteers, both military and civilian. Very early in the war, it became clear to social leaders in the North that new programs were required to deliver medical care to the wounded beyond what was available through the official military structure. The leading civilian organization was the United States Sanitary Commission, which had secured permission from President Lincoln in the summer of 1861 to deliver medical

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 41

National Soldiers Home Historic District
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

supplies to the battlefield, to build adequate field hospitals staffed with volunteer nurses (mostly women), and to raise funds to support the commission's programs⁶. As the war continued, civilian leaders began to address the issue of caring for the large number of veterans who would require assistance once the war ended. The Sanitary Commission favored the pension system rather than permanent institutional care for the disabled veteran, fearing that a permanent institution would be nothing more than a poorhouse for veterans⁷. Other groups were as strongly in favor of the establishment of a soldiers' asylum as the Sanitary Commission was opposed to the concept. Both groups gathered information on European military asylums, particularly the Hotel des Invalides in Paris, to use in either opposing or supporting the creation of a disabled volunteer soldiers' asylum⁸.

The victory of the Union was seen as the triumph of the nation, and the creation of a national institution to serve the defenders of the Union was an affirmation of that national victory. At the time of its creation, the supporters of the National Asylum probably had only limited awareness of the number of veterans who could potentially become members of the National Asylum. The number of troops, which fought for the Union would have indicated the potential membership: over 2,000,000 men, a third of the white men of military age (13 to 43 years old in 1860), served in the Union army⁹. If the number of men who were disabled in service through loss of limb, wounds, or disease equaled the sixth that died in the war, the number eligible for admission to the National Asylum would have been over 300,000¹⁰.

Even with the establishment of the National Asylum by law in 1865, the institution experienced difficulties in being realized. The original corporation charged with its organization could not secure a quorum after a year in existence. In March 1866, new legislation replaced the 100-member corporation with a twelve-member board of managers.¹¹ This group had to select sites, commission construction projects, and designate local officials while serving as unpaid volunteers of an independent Federal agency. The managers of the Asylum looked to past models and local efforts to guide the creation of the new institution.

The origins of the Northwestern Branch of the National Home can be found in relief activities in Milwaukee, which resulted in the creation of a local soldiers' home in 1865. The Milwaukee Ladies Association had been formed in October, 1861, as an auxiliary of the Chicago Branch of the United States Sanitary Commission. By December 1862, membership in the Milwaukee organization was so large that it split into two groups based on the location of members' residences, becoming the East Side and the West Side Societies. In October 1863, the East Side Society reorganized itself as the Wisconsin Soldiers' Aid Society, and took over the former association's relationship with the Sanitary Commission. In March, 1864, the West Side Society reorganized as the Wisconsin Soldiers' Home Society, concentrating primarily on providing services at the local level to returning soldiers by providing meals and lodging in rented quarters in downtown Milwaukee.

The Soldiers' Home Society received its charter from the Wisconsin legislature in February 1865, as well as a grant of \$5,000 for the purpose of erecting a permanent facility for the relief of soldiers. In the spring of 1865, the Lady Managers of the Home Society organized a fair to raise funds for the purchase of a site and the construction of the Wisconsin Soldiers' Home. The Soldiers' Home Fair was held between June 28 and July 6, 1865, and succeeded in raising over \$100,000 for the Soldiers' Home¹². By October 1865, the Home Society had purchased a 27-acre site on the far west side of Milwaukee for \$12,000, and had begun developing plans for the construction of a building.

The Board of Managers of the National Asylum met for the first time in Washington, D.C., on May 16, 1866. The principal concern of the board was the selection of sites for the three branches of the national institution, based on geographic distribution. They established criteria for site evaluation: a healthy site with fresh air and ample water supply, located 3 to 5 miles from a city on a tract of at least 200 acres, connected to the city by a railroad¹³. The Board issued a bulletin to newspapers and to governors of the northern states requesting proposals for sites to be donated or sold for the purpose of erecting branches. Proposals were due by June 20, 1866, with all sites to have been inspected by a member of the board before July 12. In addition, the Board advertised for plans, specifications, and estimates for the construction of asylum buildings.

In the second meeting of the Board in July 1866, George Walker of Milwaukee presented a letter from the Lady Managers of the Wisconsin Soldiers' Home offering \$100,000 to the Board as a donation for locating a branch of the National Asylum in Milwaukee¹⁴. Colonel Walker had made the offer of the Lady Managers' donation of the Wisconsin Soldiers' Home funds and property to the Board of Managers of the National Asylum in July 1866. This action had been preceded by difficult negotiations

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 8 Page 42

National Soldiers Home Historic District
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

in Milwaukee in June 1866, between the Lady Managers and the all-male Executive Committee of the Soldiers' Home Society. The women rejected Walker's proposal, arguing that they had worked to raise funds specifically for a Wisconsin home for soldiers, and that they already had a site and had purchased building material. The men of the Executive Committee argued that more soldiers would be helped through a national asylum; subsequently, the Lady Managers accepted the decision of the Executive Committee and Colonel Walker was authorized to make his offer to the Board of Managers¹⁵.

At the September 6, 1866, meeting of the Board, the managers accepted propositions for the purchase of a bankrupt resort at Togus, Maine, as the site for the Eastern Branch; the investigation of sites for the Central Branch in Ohio; and the inspection of sites in Milwaukee for the Northwestern Branch¹⁶.

Colonel Walker died before the December 1866, meeting of the Board, and was replaced by Dr. Erastus B. Wolcott of Milwaukee. At the December 7, 1866, meeting of the Board, the Executive Committee announced its approval of locating a branch in Milwaukee. The committee was directed by the Board to return to Milwaukee to purchase a site and to make arrangements for the construction of asylum buildings and the transfer of veterans currently housed in the Wisconsin Soldiers' Home in Milwaukee, operated by the Lady Managers of the Home Society¹⁷. By the April 4, 1867, Board meeting, a 400 acre tract west of Milwaukee had been purchased from "Messrs. Tweedy, Mitchell & Co." for \$77,000¹⁸. The Tweedy and Mitchell site had existing farm buildings to which the first members were relocated from the Wisconsin Soldiers' Home on May 1, 1867¹⁹.

The selection of the sites for the three branches was based on three motivations: practical, political, and economic. First, the Board needed a site that could be used immediately before the second winter after the war arrived, and before the time of the November 1866 elections. The Togus site, having been a resort, had enough and the appropriate type of buildings for housing the disabled veterans. The Central Branch site at Dayton satisfied the powerful Ohio faction in Congress, as well as the numerous Union generals from Ohio, particularly William Tecumseh Sherman. The Northwestern Branch at Milwaukee had been an economic success for the board, which had received a large cash donation from the Ladies Managers, enabling the Board to purchase a site and have funds left to begin construction.

The establishment of the Northwestern Branch covers the period from the site design through the construction of the first major buildings: the first Hospital (Building 52, 1867-68/demolished in 1960s), the Governor's House (Building 39, 1867), the Main Building (Building 2, 1867-69, 1875-67), and the Secretary and Surgeon's quarters (Building 38, 1867/demolished in 1985). All other buildings from this period were ancillary structures (gate houses, tool sheds, small frame quarters, stables) and have been demolished. The two oldest buildings on the site are the Governor's House (Building 39) and the Main Building (Building 2); the buildings are the oldest remaining structures built for the National Home on any of the former National Home sites²⁰.

The site for the Northwestern Branch is on the western edge of Milwaukee's "Menomonee River Valley," named for the Menomonee Indian Tribe that once lived there, along the creek that winds into and through the Northwestern Branch grounds. The site had been assembled from a number of farms that belonged to several prominent Milwaukee families. Of the 375 acres, a third belonged to John L. Mitchell, a twenty-five year old former lieutenant in the Union army who was the son of Alexander Mitchell, one of the most powerful businessmen in Milwaukee. Alexander Mitchell had been the president of the Executive Committee of the Wisconsin Soldiers' Home Society, which had convinced the Lady Managers to offer their funds and property to the Board of Managers of the National Home as an incentive to locate a branch in Milwaukee. Mitchell had been a director of the Milwaukee & Mississippi Railroad, which had been constructed in the early 1850s through the future home site; he had purchased large tracts of land along the right-of-way, which then had been mortgaged to raise funds for investment in the railroad. The Milwaukee & Mississippi Railroad was going through bankruptcy in 1867, and Alexander Mitchell, as principal stockholder in the Milwaukee & St. Paul Railroad, was in the process of absorbing the failing rail line. The second largest parcel in the tract belonged to John H. Tweedy, another of the Milwaukee & Mississippi Railroad directors and a long-time business associate of Alexander Mitchell. Dr. Erastus B. Wolcott, the local manager of the National Home's Board of Managers, who had been responsible for selecting the future site of the Northwestern Branch, had been a director of the Milwaukee & Mississippi Railroad with Mitchell and Tweedy.²¹

The Milwaukee site was served by the railroad and by two major roads leading west from the city. Grand Avenue on the north,

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 43

National Soldiers Home Historic District
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

which ran along the north side of the Menomonee River valley, and Elizabeth Avenue (later National Avenue) on the south which ran on the south side of the river valley.

The site was situated on the bluffs at the west end of the river where the river turns from the northwest to flow east into Lake Michigan. The bluffs on which the Home was to be constructed had been the site of geological investigation by Increase A. Lapham, one of the first scientists in the Wisconsin Territory. The elevation of the site made it a prominent location and offered extensive views of the surrounding countryside. The site had ample water supply in four small spring-fed lakes, and the soil was suitable for farming, particularly on the flat terrain at the base of the bluffs on the east side of the site. Existing farmhouses on the site allowed immediate occupancy by new Home members transferred from the Wisconsin Soldiers' Home in May 1867.

Work on the grounds began in May 1867, when the Board-appointed landscape gardener, Thomas Budd Van Home arrived in Milwaukee to determine the plan for the Home site²². The architect for the original buildings at the Northwestern Branch was Edward Townsend Mix, a locally prominent architect who had worked for several of the families represented in the Wisconsin Soldiers' Home Society²³.

As the first buildings at the Northwestern Branch were being completed, the Board of Managers acknowledged the rapid increase in membership by concentrating building efforts at the Central Branch, and in rebuilding facilities at the Eastern Branch, which had been destroyed by fire in 1868. Even though membership had increased in the first few years the Asylum was open, the Board felt membership would soon begin to decline. The Board based this opinion on the belief that any veteran who needed the Asylum had already entered it and that, as members regained their health or learned new work skills, they would leave the Asylum. In 1868, the Board adopted a resolution that limited the number of branches to the three existing ones²⁴. However, problems with construction of the Main Building at the Northwestern Branch and concern over the harsh winters at both the Northwestern and Eastern Branches led the Board to open a fourth branch in 1870, at a site in a warmer climate, with existing buildings available for immediate use.

The Southern Branch of the National Home was established in October 1870, with the Board's purchase of the Chesapeake Female College at Hampton, Virginia²⁵. The reuse of existing facilities for a National Home branch followed the precedent established four years earlier with the purchase of the Beals resort at Togus for the Eastern Branch. The Southern Branch was created to provide a facility for older members in a milder climate, to house black members who the board felt would be more accustomed to a southern location, and to be associated with Fort Monroe, adjacent to the new branch site.

Even though the Board had realized that the member population was aging, requiring changes in the original mission of the Home, and that membership was increasing, it was reluctant to expand the physical plants of the Home branches. Increase in membership was felt to be short term, and eventually the numbers would decrease with an increase in death rate due to the effect of age on disease and disability²⁶. The managers felt that the immediate increase in members could be accommodated with temporary conversion of existing buildings to barrack use²⁷. On January 23, 1873, Congress passed a resolution changing the name of the institution to the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers, reflecting the increasing permanence of the institution and its membership.

Major building construction projects began at the National Home branches in 1875, in part to provide more housing, but also to provide hospital facilities to meet the changing medical needs of the members. For the most part, expansion was concentrated on the Central Branch with little activity at the other three branches. In 1875-1876, the addition of corner towers on the Main Building at the Northwestern Branch were completed as a part of the overall reworking of the building which had been undertaken under General Edward Hincks between 1873 and 1876, to correct problems in the original design and construction²⁸.

Early construction included the establishment of a federal military cemetery, the Soldiers Home Cemetery, on the Northwestern Branch grounds in 1871, to the west of the main buildings. In addition, park and recreation areas were set up on the grounds in the 1870s-1890s. By 1876, there were four artificial ponds or lakes on the grounds,²⁹ all but one of which has since been filled in. Most significant to recreational history at the National Home was Lake Wheeler, named in 1938 after Colonel Cornelius Wheeler³⁰, governor of the National Home from 1891-1914. As early as 1876, the lake contained an island lighthouse, a "man-high" windmill and rented rowboats for paddling excursions. Eventually, the lake featured two stone pedestrian bridges and a

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 8 Page 44

National Soldiers Home Historic District
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

fountain. In 1966, when Building 111 was constructed, the four-foot deep lake was relocated from the building site to its current location, approximately 100 feet north of the original lake. In addition, construction of a 52.290-acre Soldiers Home Play Field, began in the 1870s. The site eventually housed a soccer field, three hardball diamonds, 13 softball diamonds, five tennis courts and a field house in the area that has since become Miller Park baseball stadium and parking lots. When membership waned in the 1950s, the National Home donated the Play Field acreage to the City of Milwaukee. Miller Park baseball stadium and Heltaer Park now stand on the former Soldiers Home play field. After Ward Memorial Hall was built in 1881, adjacent railroad tracks helped to bring more than 60,000 Milwaukee residents a year to the grounds to join veterans for recreation and entertainment at the theater, at the Play Field and throughout the grounds, well into the early 20th Century.³¹

In July 1877, Dr. Wolcott presented the "need" for more accommodations and an addition to the Main Building dining hall and kitchen at the Northwestern Branch, as well as the "want" for a memorial hall to provide a library, reading room, and store.³² The removal of the library and reading room, and recreation facilities to a separate structure would have allowed for more barrack space in the Main Building. Both motions were denied by the Board. Very little construction took place at any of the branches during 1877, although the bulk of what work was done was at the Central Branch.³³

After almost ten years in existence, membership at the Northwestern Branch had increased from 212 (absent and present) in 1867 to 1,307 (absent and present) in 1877, with a very small decline to 1,299 in 1878³⁴. The member population had increased six fold, but the facilities at the branch had been expanded only twice with the conversion of the dance hall in 1875 and the addition of four towers to the Main Building in 1876. The 1867-68 hospital remained the only medical facility at the branch even with the increased medical needs of the aging member population.

In the late 1870s and through the 1880s, the National Home had to meet challenges at all the existing branches. As the demands on the Home continued to grow, the Board of Managers chose to establish new branches: the Western Branch at Leavenworth, Kansas, in 1884, and the Pacific Branch in Santa Monica, California in 1888. The period is significant in the history of geriatric medicine because increasing awareness of the medical personnel of the physical needs of the elderly and of the opportunities for the study of chronic diseases and the aging process. At the Northwestern Branch, the period from 1879 to 1889 was one of growth in membership and in the types and number of buildings required to care for the members. As the members aged and required more medical treatment, a new hospital was erected (Building 6, 1879). More members required more barracks (Buildings 5, 1884; 7, 1888; and 9, 1888/demolished 1972). The recreational and chapel space in the Main Building was not adequate for the increased population, so an amusement hall (Ward Memorial Hall, Building 41, 1881) and a chapel (Building 12, 1889) were built. The increased need for medical services made it necessary for physicians to live on the grounds; duplex quarters were built for the surgeons (Building 17, 1887).

In 1879, the Northwestern Branch was authorized to build a bakery/quartermaster and commissary storehouse (Building 10, demolished 1940) and a new hospital (Building 6)³⁵. The contract for the design of the hospital went to Henry C. Koch, a Milwaukee architect who designed more than 300 buildings during his 40-year career from 1870 to 1910. Koch's practice overlapped that of E. Townsend Mix. Most of the work done at the Northwestern Branch in the 1880s was designed by Koch. At the December 1880 meeting, the Board heard a request from the Northwestern Branch to fund the construction of a memorial hall, using a mix of funding sources from the Ward, the Store, and the PostHumous Funds³⁶. Henry C. Koch, having completed the hospital at the Northwestern Branch only a year before, was awarded the contract for the design of the Ward Memorial Hall (Building 41) in early 1881.

The Ward Fund was significant for the projects it supported at most of the branches, particularly for the construction of theaters and cultural activity buildings. The fund came from the estate of Horatio Ward, a Virginia banker who had invested in an assortment of state bonds before the Civil War, and had moved to London at the outbreak of the war. He died in London in 1865, with a provision in his will, dated December 9, 1865, leaving approximately \$100,000 in state bonds to the "National Soldiers and Sailors Home about to erected in Washington, D.C."³⁷ After the will was probated in London in 1867, Henry B. Hammond, a lawyer in New York engaged by the Ward family to determine what charity Ward had intended to receive the funds, identified the National Asylum. The funds were transferred to the control of the Board of Managers in 1871, to fund activities that benefited the members of the Home; the board identified those as cultural activities, such as concerts, theatrical performances, and lectures. To

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 45

National Soldiers Home Historic District
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

support these activities, the board allocated funding from the Ward Fund for memorial halls.

The Board continued to be reluctant to expand the facilities of the four branches, even as membership increased and the needs of the members changed. The Board initially had felt that the general business depression which had affected the nation after 1873 and through the 1870s was responsible for the increases, and that once the economy revived, the rate of increase would decline³⁸. In 1881, the Board did find the rate of membership declining, but in 1882, found that membership had actually increased³⁹. In addition, the Board began to realize that the increasing disabilities of the members were having a definite effect on the amount of labor, which could be performed by the members themselves⁴⁰.

Statistics from the branches for the Annual Report for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1882, show that the 50- to 70-year age group made up over 50% of Home membership. At the Northwestern Branch, the 60- to 80-year group made up 30% of the population; at the Central Branch, 24%; at the Southern, 20%; and at the Eastern, 5%. The statistics also demonstrate that over 60% of the members at the Central and Northwestern branches had been admitted to the Home because of sickness, not from disabilities caused by loss of limbs or by wounds⁴¹. Civil War veterans made up 97% of the membership. Considering that the age range for Civil War participants ranged from 13 to 43 years in 1860, the Home could have expected continuing admissions well into the 20th century. The Board indicated a new understanding of the population makeup when it recommended that Congress change the eligibility requirements for admission to the Home by allowing benefits to all destitute soldiers unable to earn a living, without having to trace their disabilities to their military service⁴². The Board realized that denying benefits to this large group of veterans meant their only recourse was the poorhouse. Congress rejected the board's recommendation.

As a result of the Board's understanding of the situation facing the Home, it recognized that fact that new buildings would be required to accommodate the increased membership and that old buildings would have to be remodeled or replaced⁴³. In 1883, the Board, recognizing the changes the Home would face with increased membership and increased medical needs of the members, conceded that an "institution like the National Home must in time become an enormous hospital," and that all new buildings for the Home must be planned with that need in mind⁴⁴. The new emphasis on hospital facilities was responsible for a more coordinated program on the part of the Home branches for dealing with medical practices. In September 1883, the Board requested that chief surgeons from the four branches meet in Dayton for a "professional conference" to discuss practices at the hospitals and to prepare a written report for the Board. The surgeons met in Dayton in November 1883, and issued a report calling for standardized forms for hospital records, uniform statistical reporting, basic medical libraries at all hospitals, and treatment of certain diseases at each of the branches⁴⁵.

The Board's concern for the aged and infirm members resulted in a number of small-scale, but very significant actions to improve the conditions for their care. Fire protection became a major concern; fire escapes, pumping stations, and fire fighting equipment were topics of discussion for the Board⁴⁶. At the Northwestern Branch, this concern resulted in the construction of a two-bay fire engine house and engineer quarters in 1883 (Building 11)⁴⁷. One of the most significant signs of the board's recognition of the needs of the aged and infirm members was the first installation of an elevator in a Home building, in the Main Building at the Northwestern Branch in the fall of 1883. This new means of circulation in the four-story building, the home of the majority of members, was a "great satisfaction to the members, who heretofore had been obliged to walk up the stairs, which in the disabled condition of many of them, was painful and slow."⁴⁸

On July 5, 1884, Congress approved the Board's recommendation to change the eligibility requirements for admission, allowing veterans disabled by old age or disease to apply without having to prove any service-related disability. In effect, the Federal government assumed the responsibility of providing care for the aged; what had been established as a temporary asylum for the disabled in 1866, had become a permanent home for the elderly in 1884⁴⁹. This legislation contained other provisions applicable to Home's new position as caretaker of the elderly: no new barracks should be over two stories in height, so the aged would not have to climb many stairs; facilities should maximize outdoor exercise and employment opportunities for the aged; and new branches should be established west of the Mississippi and on the Pacific coast⁵⁰.

As a result of the Congressional act, the Home experienced a 12% membership increase almost immediately, without receiving any additional funding from Congress. The Board returned to Congress with a request for deficiency funding, arguing that the

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 8 Page 46

National Soldiers Home Historic District
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Home could either go into debt, which was illegal under its organic law, or it could discharge a large number of members to save on expenses.⁵¹ Congress appropriated additional funds, a portion of which went to the Northwestern Branch to construct barracks (Building 5) located between the Main Building (Building 2) and the hospital (Building 6). Expansion at the four original branches proceeded more slowly after 1884. The 1884 board of surgeons report recommended that the Central Branch was already too large and should not be expanded; the severe climate at the Eastern and Northwestern branches should limit their growth; and the Southern branch should not grow over 1500 to 2000 members. The surgeons suggested that new branches were a better solution than enlarging the older ones. They also recommended that certain diseases would benefit from treatment at the various branches: malaria, chronic diarrhea, hay fever, and rheumatism at the Eastern Branch; chronic bronchitis, chronic rheumatism, and general debilitation due to age at the Southern Branch; all diseases at the Central Branch; and nervous diseases, heart disease, and malaria at the Northwestern Branch, which was found to be "very fatal to all diseases of the lungs."⁵²

The establishment of new branches in the west and on the Pacific coast also limited the expansion of the older branches. In July 1884, the Board reviewed several sites in Iowa, Nebraska, and Kansas for the new Western Branch. In September, 1884, the Board selected Leavenworth, Kansas, contingent on the city donating a tract of 640 acres and \$ 50,000 to provide for "ornamentation;" the city accepted in April, 1885.⁵³ At the same meeting, the Board took under consideration the establishment of a Pacific Branch in California. However, a major step toward modernizing existing facilities rather than enlarging them was taken at the Northwestern Branch when the Board approved a contract with the Western Edison Light Company of Chicago to install an Edison incandescent electric light plant at the branch.⁵⁴ The other branches continued to be lighted with manufactured gas through the 1890s.

In November 1887, the Board of Managers was in the process of considering sites for the new Pacific Branch. Seventy-eight sites were offered for the new branch; the board, inclined to favor donated sites, selected a 600-acre tract in Santa Monica, California.⁵⁵ The new facility opened on January 1, 1888.

In 1887, new quarters for the Secretary and Assistant Surgeon (Building 17) were built at the Northwestern Branch on a site to the northwest of the Main Building, in the open area between the Main Building and the cemetery.⁵⁶ The construction of quarters in this area established the general residential character of the area north and northwest of the Main Building, which continues to exist today.

Even with the creation of the two new branches, the Board realized that increasing membership would continue and proposed four solutions to the problem.⁵⁷ Additional branches could be established; existing branches could be enlarged; states could be encouraged to erect state soldiers' homes through partial funding from the Federal government; and outside relief to veterans could be increased. Congress responded by establishing a new branch near Marion, Indiana, on March 23, 1888.⁵⁸ In 1888, funds were authorized for the fourth barrack (Building 7) built at the Northwestern Branch.⁵⁹ According to an article in the *Milwaukee Sentinel* on April 28, 1889, Henry C. Koch was the architect for the 1888-89 barrack.

In response to the Board's support of the creation of state soldiers' homes, Congress passed legislation to provide \$100 annually for every veteran eligible for the National Home that was housed in a state home. The Board of Managers was granted the right to inspect and report to Congress on the conditions of the various state homes.⁶⁰

In 1889, Henry C. Koch was awarded the contract for the construction of a frame chapel (Building 12) at the Northwestern Branch.⁶¹ The Chapel was funded from the Post Fund, an amount accumulated from sales of products made or grown at the branch and from sales at the Home Store and to be used for the benefit of the members. The Board was not allowed to support religious activities or structures with Congressionally appropriated funds.

At the Northwestern Branch, the period between 1890 and 1916 was one of increasing refinement in the provision of services to the members. Several important projects were undertaken in the first half of the 1890s to provide separate buildings for branch functions, such as administration (Building 1, 1895) and social activities (Library, Buildings 3, 1891; and Social Hall, Building 4, 1894), and to modernize operations, such as the new power house (Building 45, 1895) and the quartermaster storehouse (Building 20, 1896). Several quarters (Building 47, 1891/demolished 1987; Building 16, 1901; Building 15, 1902/demolished 1972; Buildings 49 and 50, 1908; Building 14, 1909; Building 18, 1916) were built to provide housing for the enlarged staff

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 47

National Soldiers Home Historic District
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

required to manage the Home. The recognition of the different needs of the older members lead to the creation of a new barrack type, the "old men's" barrack or the combination barrack (Building 13, 1893/demolished 1972) in which dormitories and a kitchen-dining facility were built together to serve a unique member group. The combination barrack marks the medical recognition of the differing needs of the elderly and the beginnings of geriatric medicine.⁶²

During this period, three more facilities of the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers were established: the Danville (Illinois) Branch in 1898, the Mountain Branch near Johnson City, Tennessee, in 1903, and the Battle Mountain Sanitarium at Hot Springs, South Dakota, in 1907. These branches were more carefully planned before construction actually began, and were more stylistically uniform in their architectural form than the earlier branches. Most of the efforts of the Board during this period was directed towards these three new branches.

The period opens with the request to the Board by the local manager of the Northwestern Branch for permission to hire female nurses to care for the infirm and ailing members. This action is historically significant in that the Northwestern Branch was the first of the branches to employ female nurses. Although women had served as nurses during the Civil War, the practice at the Home and, in society in general, was that men cared for strangers and women cared for the ill in the home. At the National Home, members performed nursing duties themselves. However, as the members aged and were less capable of fulfilling nursing responsibilities, the local manager contracted with the newly organized Wisconsin Training School for Female Nurses in May 1890, for the services of ten nurses.⁶³ The Northwestern Branch program influenced the other branches, which began to employ female nurses as well.

In the early 1890s at the Northwestern Branch, separate buildings were constructed for the various functions housed in the Main Building since 1869. The library and reading room moved to the new Library (Building 3) in 1891; recreational activities (bowling, billiards, cards) moved to the new Social Hall (Building 4) in 1894; and administrative offices relocated to a new headquarters building (Building 1) in 1895. The completion of the physical plant of the Northwestern Branch was marked by the construction of the power house (Building 45) in 1895, modernizing the heating and lighting systems of the branch; and the construction of the Quartermaster's storehouse (Building 20) in 1895-96.

The most significant building by function that was erected at the Northwestern Branch in the early 1890s was the "old men's barrack" or combination barrack (Building 13, demolished in 1972) which was built to the west of the western addition to the hospital in 1893.

A contract for construction, dated May 23, 1893, identifies the architect as Henry C. Koch and the building as a brick veneered building designed for barracks.⁶⁴ In 1890, the Inspector General had noted that the oldest of the Civil War members at the Northwestern Branch had complained about being housed with younger members and about having the same diet as younger members. His report suggested that a special ward be created for those older members, located in a one-story building with its own kitchen for preparing bland, soft foods.⁶⁵

The 1893 combination barrack at the Northwestern Branch was a two-story structure with a long, one-room wide main building with three wings, one at each end and one in the middle, extending off its north side. The center wing was the dining hall and kitchen, which served only the elderly Civil War members living in the barrack. The Northwestern example was the first of the type to be built, and served as the model for the other branches where it became a standard barrack type by 1902.⁶⁶

The last major project of the 1890s at the Northwestern Branch involved the reworking of the 1881 Ward Memorial Hall in 1895-97, to increase the size of the theater space within the existing building.⁶⁷ Several quarters buildings were erected between 1891 and 1916: the Protestant Chaplain's quarters (Building 16, 1901); nurses quarters (Building 15, 1902; demolished); two duplex quarters (Buildings 49 and 50, 1908) for civilian personnel; and the Catholic Chaplain's quarters (Building 14, 1909). By the end of the period, the north half of the grounds, on the north side of the Main Building, had become the residential section of the Northwestern Branch with five quarters buildings.

In 1898, Congress extended eligibility for admission to the Home to veterans of the Spanish-American War, effective in 1900. Spanish-American War veterans began applying immediately, and the Board took the position that they could enter the Home, but once their condition improved, they were to be discharged from the Home.⁶⁸ In effect, the Board had come to see the Home

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 8 Page 48

National Soldiers Home Historic District
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

as the old age home for Civil War veterans. As the members' age and infirmities increased, the installation of elevators and the upgrading of medical facilities were major concerns at the Northwestern Branch, as at all the branches.⁶⁹

However, during the 1890s, most of the development occurred at the newer Western, Pacific, and Marion branches. This activity was intended to get those branches in full operation as quickly as possible, and to build them as large as feasible during the first phases of construction. By 1896, the board realized that all the branches were overcrowded.⁷⁰ In 1898, Congress approved the establishment of a eighth branch of the National Home at Danville, Illinois. The Mountain Branch, which was established in 1903, near Johnson City, Tennessee, and the Battle Mountain Sanitarium at Hot Springs, South Dakota, established in 1907, were the last branches developed by the National Home.

The period, which had seen the continued overcrowding of existing branches and the creation of new branches to meet anticipated increases due to the Spanish-American War and broadened eligibility requirements, ended in 1916, when the Board realized that membership had begun to decline. Considering Civil War participants to have been between 13 and 43 years old in 1860, the youngest of the remaining Civil War veterans would have been 69 years old and the oldest 99, in 1916. As the death rate for the older members increased and fewer younger veterans entered the Home, membership declined. At the December 8, 1916, meeting of the Board, the managers voted unanimously to close the Northwestern Branch.⁷¹

On April 6, 1917, the United States entered World War I; by the time of the armistice on November 11, 1918, almost 5 million Americans had entered the armed forces. The National Home felt the impact of the war in two ways. On July 21, 1917, the Board agreed to turn the Southern Branch over to the War Department for use as a general military hospital. Members were transferred to other branches, most to the Mountain and Central branches; none were sent to the Northwestern branch because its climate was too severe.⁷² On October 6, 1917, an amendment to the War Risk Insurance Act, originally enacted in 1914 to insure American ships and cargo against risks of war, extended eligibility for National Home membership to all troops serving in the "German War" and, most importantly, made the provision that all veterans were entitled to medical, surgical, and hospital care. In effect, this amendment completely changed the facilities required for veterans' care.⁷³

Prior to the 1917 amendment, the only veterans entitled to such medical care were the members of the National Home who had access to the Home hospitals. All other veterans were dependent on civilian medical services. The 1917 amendment meant that all veterans were eligible for the same medical care as the members of the National Home. Clearly, there were not sufficient hospital facilities at the ten Home branches to care for the potentially high number of World War I veterans. Membership in the Home actually had declined between 1916 and 1918, as more able-bodied men left to take jobs left vacant by enlistees, and as the Home restored stricter admission procedures to lower the membership further.⁷⁴ During 1918, barracks were closed and members consolidated to conserve fuel; age limitations (62 years) were suspended for Home members to allow the more able-bodied to perform work at the branches.⁷⁵

After the Armistice, the Bureau of War Risk Insurance did not have the resources, particularly medical facilities, to meet the needs of World War I veterans. In 1919, the responsibility for veterans' services was distributed among several agencies: the United States Public Health Service took over the provision of medical and hospital services; the Federal Board for Vocational Rehabilitation assumed the task of organizing vocational rehabilitation programs; and the War Risk Insurance Bureau managed compensation and insurance payouts.⁷⁶ The burden on government hospitals, administered by the Public Health Service, was so great that it began to contract with private hospitals to provide health care for veterans.

On March 4, 1921, in response to the need for more hospitals serving veterans. Congress appropriated funds to the Secretary of the Treasury to construct additional hospitals for veterans covered by the War Risk Insurance Act amendment. In addition, Congress required the Bureau of War Risk Insurance to make allotments to the National Home to fund alterations or improvement to existing Home facilities for the purpose of caring for W.R.I. beneficiaries.⁷⁷ Two barracks (Buildings 5 and 7) at the Northwestern Branch were converted to hospital use and additional surgeons' quarters were constructed at the Northwestern Branch with W.R.I. funds.⁷⁸

Immediately after the war, the National Home made several changes in its organization to accommodate the large number of returning veterans by 1) transforming the facilities of two branches into hospitals and categorizing them for specialized

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 49

National Soldiers Home Historic District
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

care (Marion for neuro-psychiatric cases and Mountain for tuberculosis); 2) modernizing existing facilities and establishing tuberculosis wards (Central and Pacific); and 3) building entirely new hospitals (Northwestern), using funding from the Treasury Department.⁷⁹

In August 1921, Congress acted to consolidate all veterans' benefits into a single independent agency, the Veterans Bureau. On April 29, 1922, this agency assumed responsibility for fifty-seven veterans hospitals operated by the Public Health Service as well as nine under construction by the Treasury Department.⁸⁰ One of the nine Treasury Department hospitals was the new 500-bed tuberculosis hospital (Building 70) at the Northwestern Branch.⁸¹

Building 70 was built on the far southwest side of the Northwestern Branch grounds, at a distance from the other buildings, for several reasons. The isolated site on the grounds kept the tubercular patients away from other members of the Home. The treatment of tuberculosis required fresh air, sunshine, and general rest which was provided in the large, multi-winged facility set apart by itself in the midst of a park-like green area. At the time it was built, the facility was considered a model tuberculosis hospital. In the mid-1930s, the facility was converted to a general medical and surgical hospital, and a new wing was added on the west side. In 1966, a new high-rise hospital was built close to the east side of the 1922-1923 structure; in the mid-1970s, the western two wings of Building 70 were demolished to construct a new domiciliary (Building 123).

Historically, the extension of eligibility for admission to the National Home, which had been included in the October 6, 1917, amendment to the War Risk Insurance Act, was applicable to the more than 50,000 women who had served as nurses during World War I and had received honorable discharges. The Board recognized the right of these women to be admitted to the Home, and set aside a separate building at the Danville Branch for general medical treatment or domiciliary use and a ward in the Northwestern Branch tuberculosis hospital. In 1924, ten to twelve women were treated at the Northwestern Branch.⁸²

With the emphasis on hospital facilities in the 1920s, few other projects were undertaken at the Home branches. For the most part, other projects tended to be small in scope and intended to improve the lives of the members: new flagpoles were installed, theaters were rewired, fire engines were purchased, fire escapes were installed, and grandstands were built for improved baseball fields.⁸³ In the historic area of the Northwestern Branch, most of the work from the 1920s was minor with the exception of a new smoke stack (Building 106) for the power plant and a new greenhouse (Building 40, demolished c. 1994), built in 1924 with additions in 1928 and 1936.

By 1926, the Board began to see a dramatic increase in the number of patient admissions to the National Home though, for the most part, the World War I veterans were receiving medical treatment and returning to civilian life rather than entering the domiciliary program of the Home.⁸⁴ However, the Board noted that hospital care costs were almost three times the cost of domiciliary care and required large capital investments in hospitals, medical equipment, and professional staff. By 1928, the Board realized that the facilities at all the branches would be full, and that the organization of the Board was not sufficient to manage the future requirements that National Home would have to meet.⁸⁵ In June 1929, the president of the Board of Managers was named to the Federal Commission for Consideration of Government Activities Dealing with Veterans' Matters; the work of this commission resulted in the creation of the Veterans Administration.

On July 21, 1930, the Veterans Bureau, the Bureau of Pensions, and the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers were consolidated into the Veterans Administration. For the most part, the architectural projects of this organization involved the construction of veterans hospitals designed by the Technical Service Division of the V.A., with construction supervision given to local personnel using local contractors.⁸⁶

The single major building at the Northwestern Branch constructed by the Veterans Administration in the 1930s is the hospital annex (Building 43), which is located on the south side of the Historic District. The hospital annex was completed in August 1933 and is one of the earliest buildings constructed by the Veterans Administration.⁸⁷ In 1933, President Franklin Roosevelt's relief programs put a temporary hold on funding for Veterans Administration projects; however, two years later, in August 1935, plans were announced for a \$20,000,000 building program for the Veterans Administration. Several of the former National Home branches received funds; in particular, the Central Branch, which received \$1.2 million to build a new 176-bed general-medical facility and a 750 new and replacement domiciliary which included a 50-women ward.⁸⁸ The Milwaukee facility received

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 8 Page 50

National Soldiers Home Historic District
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

\$350,000 for the replacement of a 300-bed general-medical building. This new structure was the west wing added to the 1923 hospital on the south side of the center grounds. When it was dedicated in 1938, Building 6, which had become Hospital Annex #1, was converted to domiciliary use. This addition to the 1923 hospital was demolished in the mid-1970s for the construction of Building 123.

On December 7, 1941, a new war brought a new period of change to the former National Home, when an even larger number of citizens were called upon for military service. To meet the demand for services after World War II, and eventually the Korean and Vietnam wars, additional facilities were built at the former Northwestern Branch, including several Quonset huts used mostly for storage and maintenance (Buildings T-105, T-106, T-107, T-114, T-119). In keeping with the overall history of the National Home, post-World War II facilities were both residential (domiciliary) and medical (hospital) in nature. Building 111, a general medical and surgical hospital, was completed in 1966, and Building 123, a domiciliary, was constructed in 1979. Most recently, in 2004, a new regional office building was construction in the southwest corner of the V.A. Medical Center grounds. These new buildings were built outside of the National Soldiers Home Historic District, along National Avenue south of the former National Home site, to the east and west of the 1923 hospital (Building 70). The present Veterans Affairs Medical Center continues to serve veterans in the same spirit as the Northwestern Branch of the National Home did in 1867.

Architecture

When the Board of Managers of the National Asylum met for the first time in Washington, D.C., on May 16, 1866, its principal concern was the selection of sites for the three branches of the national institution. They established criteria for site evaluation: a healthy site with fresh air and ample water supply, located 3 to 5 miles from a city on a tract of at least 200 acres, connected to the city by a railroad.⁸⁹ The Board issued a bulletin requesting proposals for sites to be donated or sold for the purpose of erecting branches; in addition, the Board advertised for plans, specifications, and estimates for the construction of asylum buildings.

The Soldiers' Home Society received its charter from the Wisconsin legislature in February 1865, as well as a grant of \$5,000 for the purpose of erecting a permanent facility for the relief of soldiers. In the spring of 1865, the Lady Managers of the Home Society organized a fair to raise funds for the purchase of a site and the construction of the Wisconsin Soldiers' Home, and succeeded in raising over \$ 100,000 for the Soldiers' Home. The temporary building in which the fair had been held had been designed by Edward Townsend Mix.⁹⁰ By October 1865, the Home Society had purchased a 27-acre site on the far west side of Milwaukee and had begun developing plans for the construction of a building. It is possible that Mix was responsible for these plans as well.

According to the *Milwaukee Sentinel*, plans for buildings at the Northwestern Branch were being discussed in early March, 1867.⁹¹ At that time, the Board of Managers was considering the construction of a large dining hall and kitchen, a hospital, numerous cottages for single and married veterans, and barracks ("but of a far more comfortable nature"). This original plan appears to have been abandoned between March and May, 1867.⁹²

In May 1867, Thomas Budd Van Home, a landscape gardener and former army chaplain, arrived in Milwaukee to determine the plan for the Home site.⁹³ In the announcement of Van Home's work in the Milwaukee newspapers, information was given about the plans for the building to be constructed for the Home. This structure was to be large and wide with a very tall tower as its central element. The change in architectural plans appears to correspond to the work Van Home was doing at the site, and suggests that Van Home and Mix were working together on the project, as this description fits the building which Mix designed.

Thomas Van Home had been a chaplain in the Ohio Volunteer Infantry, a unit in the Army of the Cumberland under the command of General George Thomas. After the second battle of Chattanooga (November 23-25, 1863), General Thomas directed Van Home to lay out a cemetery at Chattanooga for the burial of the Union dead from the battle of Missionary Ridge.⁹⁴ In the late summer of 1864, as Thomas' troops moved south toward Atlanta as part of General William Tecumseh Sherman's march to the sea, Van Home laid out the Union cemetery at Marietta, Georgia. In both cemeteries, Van Home used a small hill as the cemetery site, arranging circular paths and roads around the hill between which he located the burial sites, and designating the top of the hill for a tall monument.

(8-86)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 8 Page 51

National Soldiers Home Historic District
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Van Home's designs relate to the popular rural landscape cemetery design that had been established at Mount Auburn Cemetery outside Boston in the 1830s.⁹⁵ However, a more immediate model for Van Home would have the design for the national soldiers' cemetery at Gettysburg.

The work on the design for the Gettysburg cemetery had begun in August, 1863, when David Wills, chairman of the cemetery commission consulted with William Saunders, a landscape gardener who had worked on Laurel Cemetery in Philadelphia and Rose Hill Cemetery in Chicago before the war.⁹⁶ By November 1863, the cemetery plan was worked out and made available to President Lincoln as he prepared his speech for the cemetery dedication. The emphasis of Lincoln's address was on the Union's resolve to preserve national unity, the cause for which the soldiers had died at Gettysburg. The design for the cemetery stressed this sense of unity in that Saunders had arranged the burial sites in a semicircular plan with no one section being more prominent than another; the principal focus of the plan was a tall monument placed in the center of the semicircle.⁹⁶

Van Home incorporated some of the Gettysburg design concepts, specifically of a sectioned cemetery with no one section being more prominent than another, into plans for a federal burial grounds at the National Home site. The cemetery was laid out in straight rows of upright granite headstones and opened for use May 22, 1871, when Civil War Private John Afton became the first veteran buried there. Full military honors were accorded each veteran buried, beginning with a funeral ceremony followed by a "Salute to the Dead" and the playing of taps at graveside.⁹⁷ Following construction of the Chapel in 1889, funeral services were held inside the veterans' chapel followed by the "Salute to the Dead" and the playing of taps at graveside. The national soldier's cemetery was initially The Soldiers Home Cemetery. In 1937, the name was changed to Wood National Cemetery in honor of U.S. Army Colonel George Henry Wood, the Special Representative of Administration covering National Soldier's Home activities in the early 1930s.⁹⁸

The Gettysburg-inspired design of a tall monument set on the high point of a site appears to have been used by Van Home in laying out the Home grounds at Milwaukee. Mix's Main Building was set on the highest point of the site with the tall tower serving as the focal point. All other buildings were located downhill from the Main Building, isolating the Main Building and concentrating attention on its monumentality. The utilization of one building to serve all the needs of the Home was in keeping with the notion of "home" as a building and with the notion of unity for which the disabled veterans housed in the building had fought. The "home" was surrounded by a village of buildings, which eventually included a Chapel (Building 12), Library (Building 3), Social Hall (Building 4), and Post Office (housed in the Headquarters, Building 1), as well as four lakes, ball diamonds and recreational sites, because common conjecture held that war veterans would recuperate more quickly if they lived in a village setting instead of a hospital. Most of the village was laid out to surround the Main Building along General Wolcott Avenue and Mitchell Boulevard.

The initial plan for making the Main Building the focus of the entire Home presented problems to later officials and architects when they were planning new buildings for the Home. The Main Building was oriented to the east at the crest of the bluff with land available for additional building located to the west or backside of the Main Building. Later buildings from the 1880s were arranged behind the Main Building, but could not be compositionally related to it. Consequently, the buildings of the Northwestern Branch never had a unified relationship to each other, and no centralized spatial unit was ever created.

Van Home was also responsible for the plan of the Central Branch at Dayton, Ohio, which was very different in arrangement from his plan at the Northwestern Branch.⁹⁹ His plan for the Central Branch was based on a street pattern with a major thoroughfare, dividing the residential barracks area from the administrative area, and secondary cross streets. The buildings were set along the crest of a hill overlooking the parade grounds and a landscaped park with a deer park, grottoes, greenhouses, ponds, and fountains.¹⁰⁰ At the Central Branch, Van Home created a sense of "home" as a community or village made up of buildings arranged by function into neighborhoods and a shared park area. This type of plan was much more adaptable to expansion as the Home grew; the street grid could be extended, more buildings constructed, and the sense of community maintained.

The architect for the Main Building at the Northwestern Branch was Edward Townsend Mix, the leading architect in Milwaukee from the 1860s through the 1880s.¹⁰¹ Mix was born in New Haven, Connecticut in 1831, and had been trained in the offices of Sydney Stone in New Haven and, possibly, in the offices of Richard Upjohn in New York. In early 1856, Mix began working

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 8 Page 52

National Soldiers Home Historic District
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

for William W. Boyington in Chicago. Mix moved to Milwaukee later in 1856, as a partner in Boyington & Mix, to oversee the firm's work on the Seventh Ward School (demolished), the Newhall House Hotel (burned in 1889), and the State Bank of Wisconsin.

In 1857, Mix left the partnership with Boyington and opened his own office in Milwaukee. He designed several residences for business leaders in the early 1860s, as well as commercial, public, and religious buildings (Milwaukee Sentinel Building; Milwaukee Academy of Music, Dodge County (Minnesota) Courthouse; St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Racine). In 1866, he won a competition for the Kansas state capitol, although his design was greatly changed in construction.

Mix's work in the 1870s and 1880s in Milwaukee was commissioned primarily by business leaders, such as Hercules Dousman (Villa Louis, Prairie du Chien, WI, 1872), Alexander Mitchell (Mitchell Building, 1876; Chamber of Commerce Building, 1879-81; Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Depot, 1886), Henry Button (Button House, Milwaukee, 1876), and John L. Mitchell (Meadowmere/Mitchell residence, 1884). Through his social and political connections with Cadwallader C. Washburn, former governor of Wisconsin, Mix received a commission from Senator William Washburn of Minnesota for Fair Oaks (demolished), the Washburn residence in Minneapolis in 1883. Mix's tie to Minneapolis resulted in several projects in the late 1880s for office buildings there and in St. Paul. Mix opened an office in Minneapolis in 1888; he died there in 1890.

The work of E. Townsend Mix has been characterized as "diverse eclecticism."¹⁰² In his career of almost 35 years, Mix worked through every style of architecture current in the United States from the 1850s through 1890. His early work in Milwaukee was Italianate; by the mid-to late-1860s, he was working in the Second Empire style. His churches of the 1870s were clearly related to the High Victorian Gothic designs of William Butterfield and George Gilbert Scott in England. The polychromy of Immanuel Presbyterian Church in Milwaukee (1873) is clearly derived from English examples and the writings of John Ruskin.¹⁰³ His design for the Chamber of Commerce Building in Milwaukee (1879-81) shows the influence of Frank Furness' work in Philadelphia in the mid-1870s. By the early 1880s, Mix was designing in a very refined Queen Anne style (Milwaukee Club, 1883), and at the same time, producing a Richardsonian Romanesque design which won the national competition for St. Paul's Episcopal Church (Milwaukee, 1883). His Minneapolis and St. Paul office buildings from 1886 to 1890 were high-rise commercial applications of the Richardsonian Romanesque style.¹⁰⁴

Considering Mix's tendency to work in a wide range of architectural styles derived from the writings and work of other architects, the design for the Main Building at the Northwestern Branch came from a number of sources. The style of the Main Building is Victorian Gothic, which developed in England in the late 1850s and was disseminated in the writings of John Ruskin.¹⁰⁵ Ruskin advocated a mix of medieval styles based on a number of sources from Venetian palaces to English rural churches. He stressed the use of color in design, particularly color in the materials of construction, what he called "constructional" or permanent polychromy. The Ruskinian Gothic style is characterized by flat surfaces, contrasting colors in materials, Gothic (pointed) arched doors and windows, windows arranged in series to create an arcade effect, and mansard roofs (giving the impression of being a pitched roof while allowing an additional floor level) with steeply pitched dormers. Ruskin advocated large-scale buildings with a dominant visual element to convey a sense of the power of architectural form.

Mix could easily have known the writings of Ruskin and the work of English architects through publications available in this country in the 1860s, such as Ruskin's *The Seven Lamps of Architecture* and *The Stones of Venice* as well as the English periodicals *The Builder*, an architectural journal, and *Punch and Illustrated London News*.

Another source for Mix's design for the Main Building was the writings of Thomas Story Kirkbride, who was the superintendent of the Pennsylvania Hospital for the Insane in Philadelphia, and the foremost authority on the design of hospitals for the insane in the mid-nineteenth century in the United States.¹⁰⁶ Kirkbride was a leading advocate of "moral therapy" for the insane, which involved occupational and recreational activities for patients, emphasized outdoor exercise such as walking or gardening, and included social events and church services. In effect, Kirkbride was attempting to cure the insane by treating them as rational people engaged in "rational" activities. This form of treatment required an appropriately rational setting, so Kirkbride designed a model institution with "spacious halls, large and well-furnished parlors, and comfortable chambers" in a building with indoor plumbing and forced-air ventilation.¹⁰⁷ This building was to be set in park-like grounds where the patients could benefit from

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 53

National Soldiers Home Historic District
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

fresh air, sunshine, and nature in flower gardens and planting beds; he advocated the provision of greenhouses where the patients could occupy themselves as well as supplying the hospital buildings with flowers and plants.¹⁰⁸

Although the disabled veterans who entered the National Asylum, as it was originally called, were not considered insane, there were few models for the Board of Managers and the architects to use for the design of the National Asylum buildings. Kirkbride's design for the building and grounds of the model asylum did fit the needs of the National Asylum. Kirkbride's program for the model asylum was basically the program adopted by the Board of Managers and Mix for the Northwestern Branch: a site in the country, located close to a city; easy access from the asylum to the city; a large building capable of housing a large number of patients, with provisions for dining, bathing, and socializing; and landscaped grounds for use of the patients and their visitors. Kirkbride's use of a single building arranged in a linear plan with a central administration pavilion with wings connecting to end pavilions was suitable for an insane asylum, but not necessarily for a soldiers' home. To Kirkbride, one of the benefits of his plan for the model insane asylum was control of the patients by housing them in one building in which the central pavilion housed all the common spaces used for dining, recreation, and cultural and social activities. The disabled veterans of the National Asylum were to be cared for, not controlled, which created problems with Mix's design for the Main Building.

In addition to the asylum proposed by Kirkbride, Mix may have used the Main Building (Scott Building) at the National Soldiers' Home in Washington, D.C., as an appropriate model for his design of a soldiers' home. The Washington building had been designed by Lt. Barton S. Alexander in the office of the chief engineer of the Army in 1852, and was completed in 1857.¹⁰⁹ This building was one of three structures designed for the National Soldiers' Home site when it was organized; the other two were the Governor's House and the Secretary-Treasurer's House. Alexander's design was for a two-story building on a raised basement with a mansard roof, which is identical to Mix's design. The Washington building had a projecting center pavilion with a tall, massive tower topped with a mansard roof; wings projected off the sides of the center pavilion. This building was probably well known in the architectural community in the later 1850s because of construction problems and lawsuits between the contractor and the government regarding cost overruns. The Washington Soldiers' Home received considerable attention during the Civil War because President Lincoln and his family used a cottage on the grounds of the Home as the summer White House.¹¹⁰ The Soldiers' Home Main Building was remodeled in 1870 by the architect Edward Clark and completely altered from its original appearance.¹¹¹

The construction of the Main Building at the Northwestern Branch had considerable problems with cost overruns, which resulted in the Board of Managers stopping the project before the end pavilions of Mix's design were built. The Board's refusal to complete the building as designed must have caused Dr. Wolcott, the local Manager, considerable embarrassment because he had been responsible for its construction. When the Board ordered the creation of the chapel and assembly hall on the second floor over the dining hall, Dr. Wolcott was the only dissenting vote and was ordered to fulfill the Board's decision. Bathing and laundry facilities were located in the basement, which caused humidity problems throughout the building, and resulted in a fire when the heaters for the water tanks malfunctioned. The building was not adequately ventilated when finally constructed, and heating equipment had been provided for only the basement and the first floor.¹¹² By 1873, the problems with the Main Building caused many complaints from members to the Board, which transferred General Edward Hincks from the Southern Branch to Milwaukee to make corrections. Hincks replaced heat piping, installed new ventilation shafts, and oversaw the construction of four corner towers, which were intended to add space and finally complete the building as originally designed.¹¹³ The corner towers did not correspond to Mix's design for end pavilions, and added only 96 more beds to the building at a time when the facility was very overcrowded.

Based on other residential buildings designed by Mix in the 1860s, and the lack of mention of any other architect working on the Milwaukee site in the accounts of the Board of Managers, Mix was probably the architect for the Governor's House. A 1881 view of the house indicates that it was originally built as a much smaller structure than it is today. The tower originally had a mansard roof covered with contrasting colored slate or shingles, as is seen on the Main Building. The style of the Governor's House is Victorian Italianate, characterized by a square tower, round-arch windows, simple massing with rectilinear bay projections, and broad overhanging eaves. Mix, known for adapting published designs to his own projects, could have based his plans for the Governor's House on the work of Alexander Jackson Downing's villa designs published in Downing's book *Cottage Residences*

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 8 Page 54

National Soldiers Home Historic District
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

in 1850. A comparison of 1889 and 1916 photographs shows that the house had been rebuilt with the addition of a third floor and the replacement of the mansard with a conical tower roof. The original form of the Governor's House was virtually identical to Mix's own house on Waverly Place in Milwaukee, which had been built in 1866 (now demolished).

As Mix was responsible for two of the four buildings originally built for the Home, he may have been the architect for the other two, the hospital and the second duplex quarters building. Photographs indicate that the hospital was a simple two-story brick building, perhaps too straightforward to have been designed by Mix, who was well-known for his sensitivity in adopting the most current architectural styles. The quarters building was a duplex structure, which attempted to clearly convey the sense of being two distinct residential units, and was done in the Gothic Revival board and batten style. This design could have been executed by a contractor working from a pattern book, but the attempt to distinguish the two units may be attributed to Mix.

In 1879, the Board of Managers authorized the construction of a new hospital at the Northwestern Branch. The contract for the design of the hospital went to Henry C. Koch, a Milwaukee architect who designed more than 300 buildings during his forty-year career from 1870 to 1910.¹¹⁴ Koch was the architect for almost all the major projects undertaken at the Northwestern Branch in the 1880s and 1890s. The highpoint of Koch's career was the winning of the design competition for the Milwaukee City Hall, built in 1893-95, one of the landmarks of the city.

Henry C. Koch was born in Germany in 1841, and came to Milwaukee as a child. From 1856 to 1862, he apprenticed with George W. Mygatt, one of the first architects in Milwaukee; his apprenticeship ended when he enlisted in the 26th Wisconsin Infantry. In 1863, he was transferred to the staff of General Philip H. Sheridan and worked as a topographic engineer. He continued to serve as a civilian on Sheridan's staff in New Orleans, but returned to Milwaukee in 1866, and became a partner with Mygatt. He had a practice with Julius Hess, a former associate of E. Townsend Mix, from 1870 to 1872; after Hess relocated to Detroit, the firm continued as H. C. Koch & Co. Koch was associated with his brother-in-law, Herman Paul Schnetzky from 1874 to 1887. Koch was well known for his public and assembly buildings, having been the designer of fifteen court-houses in Wisconsin and Illinois, and all the public schools built in Milwaukee from 1873 to 1881. He had been the architect for an addition to the Northern State Hospital for the Insane in Oshkosh, Wisconsin in 1874. His experience with hospital design won him the contract for the Milwaukee County Insane Asylum in 1878, which brought accusations from E. Townsend Mix that Koch had unfairly won the contract through political influence¹¹⁵. Less than a month before being awarded the contract for the hospital at the Northwestern Branch, Koch received the commission for an addition to the Milwaukee County Hospital.¹¹⁶

Not only was Koch qualified to design hospitals, he had an advantage in being a veteran himself. He was very active in veterans organizations, being one of the founders of the Wolcott Post of the Grand Army of the Republic in 1880, and an organizer of the state G.A.R. reunion in Milwaukee in 1880 and the national encampment in the city in 1889.¹¹⁷

In his design for the new hospital at the Northwestern Branch, Koch did not use the linear Kirkbride asylum plan as his model, but worked with an arrangement of three separate pavilions connected by corridors at the first floor. In this design, the administrative offices, examination, treatment, and operating rooms were located in the center pavilion with patient wards located in the side pavilions. The wards were the full width of the pavilions, allowing cross ventilation and daylight both morning and afternoon. This arrangement differed from Mix's design in the Main Building in which the use of a double-loaded corridor plan placed the sleeping rooms on the sides of the building, preventing cross ventilation and allowing daylight for only morning or afternoon. The successful functioning of Koch's hospital design, and his ability to work on projects with the branch staff and the local manager brought him more work at the Northwestern Branch through the 1880s.

At its December 1880, meeting, the Board heard a request from the Northwestern Branch to fund the construction of a memorial hall, using a mix of funding sources from the Ward, the Store, and the Posthumous Funds. Koch, having completed the hospital at the Northwestern Branch only a year before, was awarded the contract for the design of the Ward Memorial Hall (Building 41) in early 1881. As he had in the hospital project, Koch had previous experience in theater design, having been the architect for the Grand Opera House (demolished), built on the northwest corner of Wells and Water in downtown Milwaukee in 1871. In December 1880, the board had originally allocated a total of \$15,500 for the project.¹¹⁸ In July, 1881, Major Fulton, the local manager for the Northwestern Branch, informed the Board that Koch had determined that the building could not be built for

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 55

National Soldiers Home Historic District
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

\$15,500, and that an additional \$6,000 was necessary for a "building such as is required."¹¹⁹ The Board authorized the additional funds, as well as additional fees to the architect.¹²⁰

The Ward Memorial Hall was designed by Koch to have a restaurant, post office, waiting room for the train stop on the Milwaukee & St. Paul Railroad through the Home, and a theater/assembly hall. The building was built of cream city brick, which was preferred by Koch for most of his projects, and highlighted with banding and inlay patterns of red brick.¹²¹

In 1884, Congress appropriated additional funds for the National Home, a portion of which went to the Northwestern Branch to construct barracks (Building 5) located between the Main Building (Building 2) and the hospital (Building 6). The similarity between the 1884 barracks, the 1888 barracks, and the 1879 hospital-of which the 1888 barracks and the hospital are known to have been designed by Koch-suggests that Building 5 was also designed by Koch. In 1886, the only mention of construction at the Northwestern Branch was the release of funds by Congress which included funding for a new barrack at the branch (Building 9, demolished in 1972), which was located north of the Main Building adjacent to the Bakery, built in 1879.¹²² There is no evidence that Koch was the designer of this barrack, although he had received the commission for every other barrack built at the Northwestern Branch in the 1880s.

New quarters for the Secretary and Assistant Surgeon (Building 17) were built at the Northwestern Branch on a site to the northwest of the Main Building, in the open area between the Main Building and the cemetery.¹²³ The construction of quarters in this area established the general residential character of the area north and northwest of the Main Building, which continues to exist today.

The design of the quarters may be attributed to Henry C. Koch in the similarity between the Shingle Style massing of the quarters and that of the chapel (Building 12), which was designed by Koch in 1889. In 1888, funds were authorized for the fourth barrack (Building 7) built at the Northwestern Branch.¹²⁴ According to an article in the *Milwaukee Sentinel* on April 28, 1889, Henry C. Koch was the architect for this barrack, which is virtually identical to the 1884 barrack (Building 5) immediately adjacent to it.

In 1889, Koch was awarded the contract for the construction of a frame chapel (Building 12) at the Northwestern Branch.¹²⁵ The chapel was funded from the Post Fund, an amount accumulated from sales of products made or grown at the branch and from sales at the Home Store and to be used for the benefit of the members. The Board was not allowed to support religious activities or structures with Congressionally appropriated funds.

Koch's design for the Chapel was done in the Shingle Style as seen in the large mass of the roof form which comprises the entire volume of the structure, in the patterning of shingles across the wall surfaces, and in the grid-like pattern of the window openings. The turreted tower is somewhat Queen Anne in its asymmetrical placement, but the shingle patterning and the simplicity of its massing corresponds to the style of the main body of the structure. The surface treatment and large roof form relates to the design of the adjacent quarters (Building 17), built two years earlier.

Koch's work at the Northwestern Branch in the 1880s reveals a break with pre-Civil War models, such as that of Kirkbride's asylum, and a willingness to work in new contemporary styles, such as the Shingle Style of the 1889 chapel. Koch's ability to work on public projects distinguished him from Mix, who was patronized primarily by private clients. Although Koch's work departs from past models and styles, his work is very straightforward and utilitarian, without the elaborate stylistic features that can be seen in Mix's work.

Several important projects were undertaken in the first half of the 1890s to provide separate buildings for branch functions (administration, library, and social activities), and to modernize operations (power house and the quartermaster storehouse). Several quarters were built to provide housing for the enlarged staff required to manage the Home. The recognition of the different needs of the older members lead to the creation of a new barrack type, the "old men's" barrack or the combination barrack which was based on the differing needs of the elderly. Koch was the architect for the quartermaster storehouse, and most importantly, for the prototype combination barrack.¹²⁶

The Library (Building 3) is a three-story building with the recreation hall on the lower level entered from the south, and the library on the main level and mezzanine with its entrance on the north facing the Main Building, the barracks (Buildings 5 and 7), and the hospital (Building 6). It was built in a restrained Classical Revival style. In materials and window treatment,

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 8 Page 56

National Soldiers Home Historic District
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

it appears similar to other Koch buildings at the Northwestern Branch; however, there is no documentation to support such an attribution.

The Social Hall (Building 4) is a three-story frame building, similar in arrangement to the Library located to the east. It has a lower level, with bowling alleys, entered from the south, and two upper floors entered from the north. The two open floors were used for dances and meetings of the local post of the G.A.R. It was also done in a Colonial Revival style; unlike almost all non-quarters buildings, it is a frame structure.

The Headquarters Building (Building 1) is located just south of the Main Building, somewhat aligned with the east facade of the Main Building. It is east of the Library and Social Hall, and is positioned to create a sense of enclosure between the Main Building and Building 5 (barracks) of the north, the Social and Library on the south. There is a base remaining from a flagpole, which was located in the center of this enclosure; photographs identify this enclosure as the "parade grounds".

The restraint of the Renaissance Revival style, the use of cream city brick, and the window treatment again suggest an attribution to Henry C. Koch. There is no firm evidence for such an attribution. Based on a reference to a project for a "building at the National Home" in an *Inland Architect* listing of Henry C. Koch's projects for 1895, either the headquarters building, the quartermaster's storehouse (Building 20), or the power plant (Building 45) may be attributed to Koch.¹²⁷ It is likely that he would have identified the headquarters building or the powerhouse by its name if he had been the architect, which suggests that the 1895 Koch project was the storehouse. The storehouse is a large, utilitarian warehouse structure located along a siding of the former Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul & Pacific Railroad. It is built of Milwaukee cream brick in an unadorned utilitarian style.

The most significant building by function that was erected at the Northwestern Branch in the early 1890s was the "old men's barrack" or combination barrack (Building 13, demolished/1972) which was built to the west of the western addition to the hospital in 1893.

A contract for construction, dated May 23, 1893, identifies the architect as Henry C. Koch and the building as a brick veneered building designed for barracks.¹²⁸ The 1893 combination barrack at the Northwestern Branch was a two-story structure with a long, one-room wide main building with three wings, one at each end and one in the middle, extending off its north side. The center wing was the dining hall and kitchen, which served only the elderly Civil War members living in the barrack. The Northwestern example was the first of the type to be built, and served as the model for the other branches where it was a standard barrack type by 1902.¹²⁹

The last project of the 1890s at the Northwestern Branch involved the reworking the 1881 Ward Memorial Hall in 1895-97.¹³⁰ When it was originally built, the first floor housed several different functions and the second floor was a tall assembly room space, provided with a stage and fixed seating to be used for plays, lectures, and concerts. The upper room was well lighted by windows on its east and west sides. A painted glass window, depicting General Ulysses S. Grant on horseback, was donated to the Northwestern Branch by the Grand Army of the Republic at its annual encampment in 1887. This window was installed in an enlarged window opening at the east side of the second floor. In 1897, the theater was enlarged through the removal of the floor between the original first and second floors, and the wrapping of the original theater balcony around the side of the theater space. The result of this was the blocking off of the Grant window, which can only be seen on the interior in a very shallow space between the theater and the exterior walls.¹³¹ In the 1930s, a projection theater system was added to Ward Memorial Hall so movies could be shown. During its 100-plus year history, entertainment on its stages featured vaudeville and opera, stage and movie stars, including Bob Hope, Liberace, Ethel Merman, and Burns & Allen among others.

In 1898, Congress approved the establishment of an eighth branch of the National Home at Danville, Illinois. The initial building program for this branch consisted of over forty buildings arranged in a formal plan within a large circular road with the mess hall as the center of the circle and barracks staggered along the edge of the circle. The Mountain Branch, which was established in 1903, near Johnson City, Tennessee, carried the concept of prior planning into the architectural form of the buildings as well as in the plan. The buildings at the Mountain Branch were designed in a French Chateau style and grouped around a central courtyard to give the grouping a heightened sense of monumentality. The facility received considerable praise when it was opened, as critics commended the Federal government for funding such a well-worked out scheme.¹³² The last of the National

(8-86)

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES CONTINUATION SHEET

Section 8 Page 57

National Soldiers Home Historic District
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Home branches was established at Hot Springs, South Dakota, in 1907, as the Battle Mountain Sanitarium. The facility was not a branch itself, but a facility open to members at any of nine branches suffering from rheumatism or tuberculosis. The buildings of the sanitarium were done in a Spanish Mission style and were arranged like the spokes of a wheel radiating out from a circular walkway around a interior courtyard.¹³³

For the most part, the architectural projects of the Treasury Department, the Public Health Service, and Veterans Bureau were highly standardized in plan and in style. The model for this approach can be seen in the design program of the Mountain and Battle Mountain branches of the National Home. The architecture of the Mountain and Battle Mountain Branches of the National Home had followed a similar design approach in adopting a single style in planning all the buildings for the site. The architectural critic Montgomery Schuyler had praised the managers and the architect of the Mountain Branch for creating a building complex unified through style and building arrangement.¹³⁴ When a group of four three-story barracks were being planned for the Pacific Branch in 1929, the Board had required their design to conform to the style of the new hospital building at the branch. Clearly, the Board of the National Home had been trying to produce more harmonious architectural projects in its last twenty years.

The style and materials (red brick and fine stone ornamentation) seen in the 1923 tuberculosis hospital (Building 70) reflects that uniform design approach, which began in the early 1920s for veterans facilities. The single major building at the Northwestern Branch constructed by the Veterans Administration in the 1930s is the hospital annex (Building 43), which is located on the south side of the Historic District. Although the windows and entry doors have been replaced, the building demonstrates the Veterans Administration's use of a simplified Georgian Revival style. Stylistically, the hospital annex is similar to the 1923 tuberculosis hospital (Building 70) built by the Veterans Bureau.

For the most part, the architectural projects of the Veterans Administration were designed by the Technical Service Division of the V.A., with construction supervision given to local personnel using local contractors.¹³⁵ Building styles and materials as well as floor plans were standardized for V.A. projects. The hospital annex was completed in August 1933.

In the historic district, the only other structures built in the 1930s were garages, storage buildings, and a new kitchen for the Main Building (Building 2). The kitchen project involved the demolition of the original 1867 kitchen on the north side of the Main Building dining hall, and the construction of a new kitchen. The new kitchen was built with bricks salvaged from the demolition, allowing the new construction to match the original 1867 building.¹³⁶ In war and post-war era of the 1940s, the last decade of significance in the historic district, the structures built were garages and Quonset huts, with the exception of a flagpole erected in 1945 at the end of World War II, which was removed by the V.A. in the late 1980s. In 1972, the State Medical Society of Wisconsin honored the early history and medicine of the historic district with an historical marker honoring Dr. Erastus B. Wolcott, located on the hill above Lake Wheeler.¹³⁷ In 1989, the history of the Northwestern Branch of the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers was commemorated with the dedication of a State Historical Marker, "The National Soldiers Home," located in front of the new V.A. Medical Center along National Avenue.¹³⁸

The buildings within the historic district constitute a visually impressive group of institutional buildings, which are notable both for the variety of building types (barracks, hospital, library, chapel, quarters, storehouse, power plant) and of styles (Victorian Gothic, Victorian Italianate, Shingle Style, Renaissance Revival, Classical Revival, Colonial Revival) represented. The site itself maintains the strong sense of place, which is created by the tightly arranged grouping of buildings. The buildings and the landscape are integrated into a symbolic expression of national unity for which the Civil War was fought, and for which the National Home was created.

Archeological Potential

Prehistoric archeology has been undertaken through funded projects for test excavations at various locations within the National Home Historic District grounds. Some of these were undertaken as a part of the development of the V.A.'s *Historic Preservation Plan* in 1992.¹³⁹ Historic archeology may be of considerable significance in that the sites of several demolished buildings have been identified on the grounds. Excavations at existing sites have uncovered historic artifacts related to the Home's period of

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 8 Page 58

National Soldiers Home Historic District
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

significance in addition to prehistoric artifacts. Those sites, as well as other locations around existing buildings may yet yield valuable information on the habits and possessions of the National Home members, as well as on construction practices used over the last 125 years of building on the site. As suggested by the Archeology Report contained in the *Historic Preservation Plan*, further excavations at the three identified prehistoric and historic archaeological sites, including a potential burial mound at Site A, as well as additional excavations along the bluff line boundary on the west side of the grounds, may uncover additional prehistoric artifacts, including artifacts of potential significance for Native Americans. To date, excavations have uncovered the following prehistoric finds:

Site A, a 40-meter by 30-meter site, located just northwest of the Silurian Reef and north of Buildings 18, 19 and 62, at the intersection of Mitchell Boulevard and the Miller Park entrance to the Historic District off of I-94. Excavations uncovered 24 prehistoric materials, including several stone tools and chert flakes and shatter artifacts, the byproducts of stone tool construction. A yet-unexcavated low-rise mound is located on the north, northeastern tip of the site.

Site B, a 40-meter by 50-meter site located east of the Powder Magazine and north of Building 2, uncovered 9 prehistoric items, including chert flakes and shatter.

Site C, a 50-meter by 20-meter site, located on a small rise across the railroad tracks to the south of Building 7 on the west side of Red Arrow Road, uncovered prehistoric debris including chert flakes.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 8 Page 59

National Soldiers Home Historic District
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Preservation Activity

The intense pressure that was placed on the National Home and that has continued with its successors, the Veterans Administration and the Department of Veterans Affairs, to meet the needs of American veterans, could easily have caused considerable loss of site and buildings at the former Northwestern Branch. However, the Milwaukee facility clearly has major buildings from its entire history and the site, as originally laid out by Chaplain Van Home, is virtually intact, with the exception of the loss of the farmlands for the County Stadium and the intrusion of I-94 on the north side.

The engineering staff of the facility has maintained a level of historic integrity over the years, adapting buildings rather than demolishing them. Unfortunately, the increased pressure on the V.A. in the 1990s has led to accelerated change in the historic district. Most recently, the V.A. announced plans in November 2003 to open six buildings, the Headquarters, Main, Library, Hospital, Chapel and Ward Memorial Hall (Building 1, Building 2, Building 3, Building 6, Building 12 and Building 41), as well as 37 acres in the southeast corner of the medical center property — at 16 acres of which resides within the National Home Historic District — to commercial development via a 75-year lease, as early as summer of 2005.¹⁴⁰ Additionally, the V.A. began renovations in late 2004 on the exteriors and interiors of some National Register eligible buildings (Building 4 and Building 17).

The preparation of a *Historic Preservation Plan* in 1992 — in conjunction with the 1979 original submission of this application to the National Register of Historic Places (and when the historic district was deemed National Register eligible in 1980) — was intended to serve as a guide in maintaining the historic and architectural fabric of the district while accommodating carefully considered change. Private citizens have been encouraged to participate in the preservation of historic buildings on the grounds, in particular the Ward Memorial Hall, which was used by community theater groups for rehearsals and performances in the early to mid 1990s.

Subsequent efforts of the nonprofit Soldiers Home Foundation, Inc.,¹⁴¹ and community partners have focused upon the Chapel (Building 12) and Building 1. Additional plans are being finalized by the Soldiers Home Foundation to ensure the EUL-designated buildings — and the historical, architectural significance as well as the legacy of veterans' sacrifices housed within the buildings — along with the cemetery, grounds and buildings of the entire historic district, are properly and reverently restored and preserved. Educational activities and tours, including an annual Reclaiming Our Heritage Multi-Era Encampment and Reenactment that draws 10,000 people to the grounds each June,¹⁴² — as well as ongoing partnership efforts and activities with the Department of Veteran Affairs, the community, state and nation — have energized preservation efforts and called increasing attention to the need to restore and preserve the buildings and grounds of this nationally significant historic district.

For over 20 years, the Soldiers Home Foundation has specifically been dedicated to protecting, preserving and highlighting this national treasure because, among so many reasons, The National Soldiers Home Historic District is:

- Milwaukee's most direct link to President Abraham Lincoln,
- A lasting reminder of the force of American women who were determined to care for those who bore the burden of war and who foresaw the need for *permanent* care for veterans of *all* wars,
- The nation's only remaining example of its original federal soldiers homes and recuperative villages,
- The national embodiment of the history of federal veteran medical care from the Civil War to modern times,
- The final resting place of more than 37,000 American veterans from the War of 1812 through today,
- The home of nationally acclaimed works of architectural art.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 8 Page 60

National Soldiers Home Historic District
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Endnotes

1. David J. Rothman, *The Discovery of the Asylum: Social Order and Disorder in the New Republic*, Boston, 1971, 131-133.
2. On the Sailors Home, see Judith Gladys Cetina, *A History of Veterans' Homes in the United States, 1811-1930*, Ph.D. diss. Case Western Reserve University, 1977, 30-39.
3. On the army asylum, see Cetina, *History of Veterans' Homes*, 39-53.
4. Paul Goode, *United States Soldiers' Home*, Richmond, VA, 1957, 24-26, 45-46.
5. Goode, *United States Soldiers' Home*, 99.
6. On the Sanitary Commission, see William Q. Maxwell, *Lincoln's Fifth Wheel: The Political History of the United States Sanitary Commission*, London, 1956.
7. Robert Bremner, *The Public Good, Philanthropy and Welfare in the Civil War Era*, New York, 1980, 146.
8. Cetina, *History of Veterans' Homes*, 61-72.
9. Marts A. Vinovskis, "Have Social Historians Lost the Civil War? Some Preliminary Demographic Speculations," *Toward A Social History of the American Civil War*, Cambridge, 1990, 9.
10. Ibid.
11. The history of the Wisconsin organization can be found in Ethel Hurn's *Wisconsin Women in the War between the States*, Madison, 1911, 18-26, 155-176.
12. Ethel Hurn, *Wisconsin Women*, 165-174; Flower, *History of Milwaukee*, vol. 2, Chicago, 1881, 757-759. For a description of the fair, see *Milwaukee Sentinel*, May 18, 1865, p. 1, col. 4.
13. Board of Managers of the National Asylum for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers, *Proceedings*, May 16, 1866, 2; *Milwaukee Sentinel*, March 5, 1867, p. 1, col. 4.
14. Board of Managers, *Proceedings*, July 12-13, 1866, 4.
15. Board of Managers, *Proceedings*, July 13, 1866, 5; Colonel Walker made the presentation of the Lady Managers' offer of donation.
16. Board of Managers, *Proceedings*, September 6, 1866, 6.
17. Board of Managers, *Proceedings*, December 7, 1866, 7.
18. Board of Managers, *Proceedings*, April 4, 1867, 11.
19. Frank Flower, *History of Milwaukee*, Vol. 2, 768.
20. The oldest building at the former Eastern Branch at Togus, Maine, is the Governor's House which dates from 1869; National Register of Historic Places, 1973. The *Catalog of National Historic Landmarks* (National Park Service, 1987) has a date of 1866, which refers to the establishment of the Togus facility, not the construction of the house. The oldest structure at the former Central Branch at Dayton, Ohio, is the Protestant chapel, completed in 1870 (*Cincinnati Commercial-Gazette*, October 10, 1870); information from Melissa Rumbarger, archivist, Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Dayton, Ohio.
21. Flower, *History of Milwaukee*, Vol. 2, 1330.
22. *Milwaukee Sentinel*, May 18, 1867, p. 1, col. 4. Van Horne returned to Milwaukee to review work on the site, *Milwaukee Sentinel*, March 18, 1868, p. 1, col. 5.
23. For the career of E. Townsend Mix, see John R. Burrows, *The Work of E. Townsend Mix*, MA thesis, University of Virginia, 1980; *Milwaukee Sentinel*, January 5, 1866.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 8 Page 61

National Soldiers Home Historic District
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

24. Board of Managers, *Proceedings*, March 12, 1868, 21.
25. Board of Managers, *Proceedings*, October 28, 1870, 75.
26. Cetina, *History of Veterans' Homes*, 181.
27. Board of Managers, *Annual Report for 1874*, 7.
28. Board of Managers, *Proceedings* (1876), 330, 344, 355, 367.
29. Site Map, 1876.
30. VA Scrapbook, 1937-1941, p. 38.
31. James Marten, " 'A Place of Great Beauty, Improved By Man.' The Soldiers' Home and Victorian Milwaukee." *Milwaukee County Historical Society Magazine*, Vol. 22. Spring 1999. p. 2-15.
32. Board of Managers, *Proceedings*, July 2, 1877, 407-408.
33. Board of Managers, *Proceedings* (1877), 384, 395, 408, 424.
34. Board of Managers, *Annual Report for 1882*, 82.
35. Board of Managers, *Proceedings* (1879), 505, 517, 532, 555.
36. Board of Managers, *Proceedings* (1880), 640.
37. Board of Managers, *Proceedings* (1890), 293-298.
38. Cetina, *History of Veterans' Homes*, 178.
39. Board of Managers, *Annual Report for 1882*, 2.
40. Board of Managers, *Annual Report for 1882*, 57.
41. Board of Managers, *Annual Report for 1882*, 59, 83, 106, 108.
42. Board of Managers, *Annual Report for 1882*, 3.
43. Board of Managers, *Annual Report for 1882*, 4.
44. Board of Managers, *Annual Report for 1883*, 3.
45. Board of Managers, *Proceedings* (1884), 25; Cetina, *History of Veterans' Homes*, 312-313.
46. Cetina, *History of Veterans' Homes*, 326-328.
47. Board of Managers, *Proceedings*, September 30, 1883, 794; Cetina, *History of Veterans' Homes*, 326.
48. Board of Managers, *Annual Report for 1883*, 111; Cetina, *History of Veterans' Homes*, 324: the elevator was one of the first physical improvements to benefit the elderly.
49. Cetina, *History of Veterans' Homes*, 281-282.
50. Cetina, *History of Veterans' Homes*, 183, 196-197.
51. Board of Managers, *Annual Report for 1884*, 5.
52. Board of Managers, *Annual Report for 1884*, 30.
53. Board of Managers, *Proceedings* (1884), 15-17, 35.
54. Board of Managers, *Proceedings* September 23, 1885, 59-60.
55. Board of Managers, *Proceedings*, November 11, 1887, 159, 165-167.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 8 Page 62

National Soldiers Home Historic District
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

56. Board of Managers, *Proceedings*, April 19, 1887, 131.
57. Cetina, *History of Veterans' Homes*, 186, citing Board of Managers, Annual Report for 1887, 3.
58. Board of Managers, *Proceedings* (1888), 198.
59. Board of Managers, *Proceedings*, November 17, 1888, 208.
60. Cetina, *History of Veterans' Homes*, 188-189; Board of Managers, *Proceedings*, September 19, 1888, 196-197.
61. Contract for construction dated April 13, 1889, in the files of the director of the Medical Library, Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Milwaukee; *Milwaukee Sentinel*, April 28, 1889, p. 12, col. 2.
62. Cetina, *History of Veterans' Homes*, 306.
63. Board of Managers, *Proceedings*, November 7, 1890, 382-384.
64. Contract for construction dated May 23, 1893, in the files of the director of the Medical Library, Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Milwaukee.
65. Cetina, *History of Veterans' Homes*, 315, citing "Report of General William Averell to General William B. Franklin, July 1, 1890."
66. Cetina, *History of Veterans' Homes*, 315.
67. Board of Managers, *Proceedings*, June 10, 1897, 725.
68. Cetina, *History of Veterans' Homes*, 354-355.
69. Board of Managers, *Proceedings* (1905), 128, 186.
70. Board of Managers, *Proceedings*, September 8, 1896, 681.
71. Board of Managers, *Proceedings*, December 8, 1916, 21.
72. Board of Managers, *Proceedings*, December 4, 1917, 88.
73. Cetina, *History of Veterans' Homes*, 383.
74. Board of Managers, *Proceedings*, April 2, 1917, 28.
75. Board of Managers, *Proceedings*, July 21, 1917, 43; September 6, 1918, 82.
76. Gustavus Weber and Laurence Schmeckebier, *The Veterans Administration*, Washington, DC, 1934, 4.
77. Board of Managers, *Proceedings*, March 22, 1921, 177.
78. Board of Managers, *Proceedings*, March 22, 1921, 177-180.
79. Cetina, *History of Veterans' Homes*, 378-379.
80. Weber and Schmeckebier, *Veterans Administration*, 16-17.
81. Board of Managers, *Proceedings*, December 4, 1921, 217.
82. Board of Managers, *Proceedings*, June 19, 1923, 275-276; September 14, 1923, 281; December 1, 1924, 346.
83. Board of Managers, *Proceedings*, March 20, 1923, 264-267.
84. Board of Managers, *Proceedings*, December 6, 1926, 443.
85. Board of Managers, *Proceedings*, March 20, 1928, 7.
86. Schuyler, "Fortunate Treatment," *Architectural Record*, August, 1911, 137-150.
87. "Dedicate Addition" *Wisconsin News*, August 31, 1933.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 8 Page 63

National Soldiers Home Historic District
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

88. "Bill Just Signed" August 24, 1935, Scrapbook 1937-1941, Medical Library, Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Milwaukee.
89. Board of Managers, *Proceedings*, May 16, 1866, 2; *Milwaukee Sentinel*, March 5, 1867, p. 1 col. 4.
90. See Burrows, *Work of E. Townsend Mix*.
91. *Milwaukee Sentinel*, March 2, 1867, p. 1, col. 4.
92. *Milwaukee Sentinel*, May 18, 1867, p. 1, col. 4.
93. Ibid.
94. Thomas B. Van Home, *History of the Army of the Cumberland, Its Organization, Campaigns, and Battles*, 1875; reprint Wilmington, NC, 1988, vol. 2, 377-379.
95. See Blanche Ward-Linden, *Silent City on A Hill; Landscape of Memory in Boston's Mt. Auburn Cemetery*, Columbus, OH, 1989.
96. Discussions with Robert Prosper, National Park Service historian, Gettysburg National Military Park, and Christopher Vernon, professor of landscape architecture, University of Illinois-Urbana, on the work of William Saunders at Gettysburg. See Carry Wills, *Lincoln at Gettysburg, The Words that Remade America*, New York, 1992.
97. Historical Files, Wood National Cemetery, Milwaukee.
98. *Who's Who in America*, 1942-43, 1943-1950
99. *Dayton Weekly Journal*, September 10, 1867.
100. J.C. Gobrecht, *History of the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers: with a Complete Guide-Book to the Central Home at Dayton, Ohio*, Dayton, 1875, 84-94.
101. The only comprehensive analysis of the work of Edward Townsend Mix is Burrows, *Work of E. Townsend Mix*.
102. Burrows, *Work of E. Townsend Mix*, 1.
103. Roger Dixon and Stefan Muthesius, *Victorian Architecture*, London, 1978, 22.
104. Numerous buildings by E. Townsend Mix have been listed on the National Register of Historic Places, including:
 - St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Racine, 1866-1867
 - Villa Louis, Prairie du Chien, 1872
 - Immanuel Presbyterian Church, Milwaukee, 1873-1875
 - Mitchell Building, Milwaukee, 1876-187
 - Mackie Building (Chamber of Commerce), Milwaukee, 1879-1880
 - St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Milwaukee, 1882
 - Grand Avenue Congregational Church, Milwaukee, 1887
105. Dixon and Muthesius, *Victorian Architecture*, 22.
106. Thomas S. Kirkbride, *On the Construction, Organization, and General Arrangements of Hospitals for the Insane*, Philadelphia, 1854.
107. Nancy Tomes, *A Generous Confidence: Thomas Story Kirkbride and the Art of Asylum-Keeping*, Cambridge, 1984, 41.
108. Kirkbride, *On the Construction...of Hospitals*, 53.
109. Goode, *United States Soldiers' Home*, 51-52.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 8 Page 64

National Soldiers Home Historic District
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

110. Goode, *United States Soldiers' Home*, 75.
111. Goode, *United States Soldiers' Home*, 102.
112. Board of Managers of the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers, *Annual Report for 1875*, 28.
113. Board of Managers, *Annual Report for 1875*, 27.
114. For a contemporary biography of Henry C. Koch, see Rower, *History of Milwaukee*, vol. 2, 1500-1501; the only comprehensive study of Koch is William O'Brien, *Milwaukee Architect: Henry C. Koch*, MA thesis, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, 1989.
115. Burrows, *Work of E. Townsend Mix*, 52-53.
116. *Milwaukee Sentinel*, July 19, 1879, p. 7, col. 2.
117. O'Brien, *Milwaukee Architect*, 151-152.
118. Board of Managers, *Proceedings*, December 14, 1880, 640: Ward Fund, \$7,500; Posthumous Fund, \$4,500; Store Fund, \$3,500.
119. Board of Managers, *Proceedings*, July 6, 1881, 679; *Annual Report for 1881*, July 8, 1881, 15.
120. Board of Managers, *Annual Report for 1881*, September 9, 1881, 26. It is interesting to note that Koch not only received approval to increase the budget for the project by almost 40%, but received additional fees at 6% at a time when architects used a standard fee of 5%. This arrangement was acceptable to the Board, and did not affect Koch's professional reputation with the Board as he continued to receive commissions for several other projects at the National Home for the next fifteen years.
121. Ward Memorial Hall, Northwestern Branch of the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers, National Register of Historic Places, May 8, 1984.
122. Board of Managers, *Proceedings*, July 20, 1886, 96.
123. Board of Managers, *Proceedings*, April 19, 1887, 131.
124. Board of Managers, *Proceedings*, November 17, 1888, 208.
125. Contract for construction dated April 13, 1889, in the files of the director of the Medical Library, Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Milwaukee; *Milwaukee Sentinel*, April 28, 1889, p. 12, col. 2.
126. Contract for construction dated May 23, 1893.
127. *Inland Architect*, 26/1, August 1895, 10.
128. Contract for construction dated May 23, 1893.
129. Cetina, *History of Veterans' Homes*, 317.
130. Board of Managers, *Proceedings*, June 10, 1897, 725.
131. Ward Memorial Hall, National Register of Historic Places, May 8, 1984.
132. Montgomery Schuyler, "Fortunate Treatment of a Group of Institutional Buildings at Johnson City," *Architectural Record*, August 1911, 137-150; "The Soldiers' Home in Tennessee: A Noteworthy Example of Buildings Planned as a Whole," *The Craftsman*, December, 1906, 340-356.
133. *History of Battle Mountain Sanitarium*, n.p., n.d., from the files of the Library at the Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Hot Springs, South Dakota.
134. Schuyler, "Fortunate Treatment" *Architectural Record*, August 1911, 137-150.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 9 Page 65

National Soldiers Home Historic District
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Bibliography

- Benchley, Elizabeth D., Ph.D., "Archeology Report on Site Evaluation Studies at Three Prehistoric Sites." *Clement J. Zablocki Veterans Administration Medical Center Historic Preservation Plan*, Jan. 1, 1992.
- Board of Managers of the National Asylum for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers, *Proceedings and Annual Reports*.
- Burrows, John R. *The Work of E. Townsend Mix*, MA thesis, University of Virginia, 1980.
- Cetina, Judith Gladys. *A History of Veterans' Homes in the United States, 1811-1930*, Ph.D. diss. Case Western Reserve University, 1977.
- Corbett, Elizabeth. *Out at the Soldiers' Home*. Appleton-Century, 1941.
- Dixon, Roger, and Stefan Muthesius. *Victorian Architecture*. London, 1978.
- Engineering Files, Veterans Affairs Medical Center, Milwaukee.
- Flower, Frank. *History of Milwaukee*, Vol. 2, Chicago, 1881.
- Gobrecht, J.C. *History of the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers: with a Complete Guide-Book to the Central Home at Dayton, Ohio*, Dayton, 1875, 84-94.
- Goode, Paul. *United States Soldiers' Home*, Richmond, VA.
- Hurn, Ethel. *Wisconsin Women in the War between the States*, Madison, 1911.
- Kirkbride, Thomas S. *On the Construction, Organization, and General Arrangements of Hospitals for the Insane*, Philadelphia, 1854.
- Marten, James. "'A Place of Great Beauty, Improved By Man.' The Soldiers' Home and Victorian Milwaukee." *Milwaukee County Historical Society Magazine*, Vol. 22. Spring 1999.
- Rothman, David J. *The Discovery of the Asylum: Social Order and Disorder in the New Republic*, Boston, 1971.
- Schuyler, Montgomery. "Fortunate Treatment of a Group of Institutional Buildings at Johnson City," *Architectural Record*, August 1911.
- Schuyler, Montgomery. "The Soldiers' Home in Tennessee: A Noteworthy Example of Buildings Planned as a Whole," *The Craftsman*, December, 1906.
- Tomes, Nancy. *A Generous Confidence: Thomas Story Kirkbride and the Art of Asylum-Keeping*, Cambridge, 1984.
- Vinovskis, Marts A. "Have Social Historians Lost the Civil War? Some Preliminary Demographic Speculations," *Toward A Social History of the American Civil War*. Cambridge, 1990.
- Weber, Gustavus, and Laurence Schmeckebier. *The Veterans Administration*. Washington, DC, 1934.
- White, William B. *United States Department of the Interior National Park Service's Historic American Buildings Survey*. Planning and Design Institute, Inc. Jan. 29, 1992.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 10 Page 66

National Soldiers Home Historic District
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

UTM REFERENCES

Continued

	Zone	Easting	Northing
5.	16	4 2 0 2 9 2	4 7 6 4 7 5 2
6.	16	4 2 0 2 9 2	4 7 6 4 6 4 7
7.	16	4 2 0 3 3 1	4 7 6 4 5 8 1
8.	16	4 2 0 5 1 3	4 7 6 4 3 7 9
9.	16	4 2 0 6 6 5	4 7 6 4 4 1 4
10.	16	4 2 0 9 7 1	4 7 6 4 0 2 3
11.	16	4 2 0 9 7 1	4 7 6 3 7 4 4
12.	16	4 2 0 8 1 0	4 7 6 3 7 1 9
13.	16	4 2 0 6 5 9	4 7 6 3 8 2 4
14.	16	4 2 0 3 0 7	4 7 6 3 7 8 2
15.	16	4 1 9 9 6 2	4 7 6 3 8 8 9
16.	16	4 1 9 9 6 2	4 7 6 4 6 3 9
17.	16	4 1 9 9 6 2	4 7 6 4 6 7 9

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Additional Information Page 66

National Soldiers Home Historic District
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

USGS Map

USGS Map enclosed. See additional aerial map, also enclosed.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 10 Page 67

National Soldiers Home Historic District
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Verbal Boundary Description

The Northwestern Branch, National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers Historic District is located in Section 35 of T7N, R21E, and is wholly contained within the boundaries of the City of Milwaukee in Milwaukee County, Wisconsin. The boundaries of the north portion begin at a point located at the intersection of the southerly curblin of West Blue Mound Road and the right-of-way of Mitchell Boulevard, then proceeds south along the east edge of the said right-of-way to the north edge of the right-of-way of Interstate Highway 94. The line then proceeds west on the north edge of the said Interstate Highway 94 to the west property line of the Veterans Affairs Medical Center, abutting the property of Beth Hamedrosh Hagodel Cemetery; the line then proceeds east along the property line of the Veterans Affairs Medical Center abutting Calvary Cemetery to the west property line of the Veterans Affairs Medical Center right-of-way along Mitchell Boulevard, proceeding north to the southerly curblin of West Blue Mound Road, returning to the point of beginning.

The boundaries of the south portion of the historic district begin at the intersection of the westerly curblin of Story Parkway and the southern edge of the right-of-way of Interstate Highway 94, proceeding along the base of the bluff on the property line between the Miller Park grounds and the Veterans Affairs Medical Center to the intersection with the northerly railroad right-of-way of the Chicago, Milwaukee St. Paul & Pacific Railroad and the westerly right-of-way of Highway 41. From this point, the boundary proceeds south on the across the railroad right-of-way to the watercourse of the drainage channel, where the boundary turns southwest-west and follows the channel to the west property line of the Veterans Affairs Medical Center. The boundary line proceeds north on the established property line to the southerly edge of the right-of-way of Interstate Highway 94, where the line turns east to follow the southerly edge right-of-way of the Interstate Highway 94 to the point of beginning.

Boundary Justification

The boundaries include all resources associated with the period of significance of the historic district, and follow the natural contours of the site that were present when the original plan was laid out, with the exception of the intrusion of Interstate 94 and the transfer of the former lands to the County of Milwaukee. The boundaries include the view shed from the earliest and most prominent building (Building 2) and create a visual separation between the historic district and the more recent development along National Avenue. Building 70 and its related buildings have been excluded even though they fall within the period of significance because the removal of the west wing of the original building and the 1938 addition and the construction of Building 111 and Building 123 have eliminated the original form of the building and its original context.

The boundaries of the National Soldiers Home Historic District are discontinuous as the district was physically divided when the East-West Expressway portion of the Milwaukee County Expressway (now Interstate Highway 90/94) was built west from downtown to Waukesha County in 1962.¹ The highway construction bisected the district into a northern third, which contains 5 acres of Wood National Cemetery and part of the Zablocki Drive services road and the Home's original entrance road (General Mitchell Boulevard), and the larger southern two-thirds portion of the district. While the interstate highway physically separates the district, these resources remain historically contiguous and are considered contiguous in day-to-day operations by both the Wood National Cemetery and the Department of Veterans Affairs in the upkeep and maintenance of the cemetery markers

and VA grounds.

Endnote

1. *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*. Feb. 27, 2005. "For 50 years, Milwaukee's been on a freeway ride." Eric Paulsen.

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Section 11 Page 68

National Soldiers Home Historic District
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Form Prepared By

The original application that determined National Register Eligibility was prepared by:

Name/Title: Nancy J. Hubbard

Organization: Planning and Design Institute date 7/2/1992

Street & Number: 4545 North Woodburn telephone (414) 229-6451

City or Town: Milwaukee State: WI Zip: 53211

In addition to Ms. Gilpatrick Halverson, this resubmitted application was updated by the following:

Name/Title: Attorney Todd Hunter, President

Organization: Heritage Guard Preservation Society, Inc. date 1/25/2005

Street & Number: 115 West Main Street, 2nd Floor telephone (608) 255-8678

City or Town: Madison State: WI Zip: 53703

Name/Title: Patricia Lynch, Secretary

Organization: Soldiers Home Foundation, Inc. date 1/25/2005

Street & Number: 5000 West National Avenue telephone (414) 389-4135

City or Town: Milwaukee State: WI Zip: 53295-1000

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Additional Information Page 68

National Soldiers Home Historic District
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Photographs

Photographer: Patricia A. Lynch

Photographs taken: December 20, 2005

Location of negatives: Soldiers Home Foundation, Inc., Office, 5000 W. National Ave., Milwaukee, WI 53295

Photo #	Description	Vantage Point
1	Building 1 - Administration (Headquarters)	E from Wolcott Ave. in front of Building 3
2	Building 2 - Old Main (Domiciliary)	NW from General Mitchell Blvd.
3	Building 3 - Wadsworth Library	SE from Wolcott Ave. in front of Building 4
4	Building 4 - Recreation Hall	S from Wolcott Ave. in front of Building 5
6a	Building 6 - Hospital	W from Wolcott Ave. in front of Building 5
6b	Building 6 - Hospital	NW from Parking Lot off Wolcott Ave.
7	Building 6 - Domiciliary Barracks	S from service drive between Buildings 2 & 7
11	Building 11 - Firehouse	SW from General Mitchell Blvd.
12	Building 12 - Chapel	W from General Mitchell Blvd.
17	Building 17 - Surgeon & Adjutant's Quarters	NW from Chapel
18	Building 18 - Quarters	E from General Mitchell Blvd.
37	Building 37 - Quarters	E from South loop of Barron Cr.
39	Building 39 - Governor's Residence	NW from lawn south of Barron Cr.
41	Ward Memorial Hall (Theater)	W from lawn E of General Mitchell Blvd.
43	Building 43 - Hospital Annex - Domiciliary	NW from Hines Ave.
45-106	Building 45 - Powerhouse — and Smokestack	W from W entrance of Building 43
50-49	Buildings 50 and 49 - Quarters	N from Power House Dr.
53	Powder Magazine	NE from sloping lawn across from Building 2
57	Building 57 - Cemetery Reception House	SW from Walker Dr.
84	Building 84 - Garage for Buildings 49, 50	S from Power House Dr.
120	Soldiers and Sailors Monument	W from Walker Dr. in front of Building 57
OB-1	Hiker Statue	E from Hines Ave.
OB-2	Fountain	E from General Mitchell Blvd. in front of Building 2
OB-3	Bivouac of the Dead Marker	N from Walker Dr.
S-1	Wood National Cemetery	N from Walker Dr. near OB-3

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

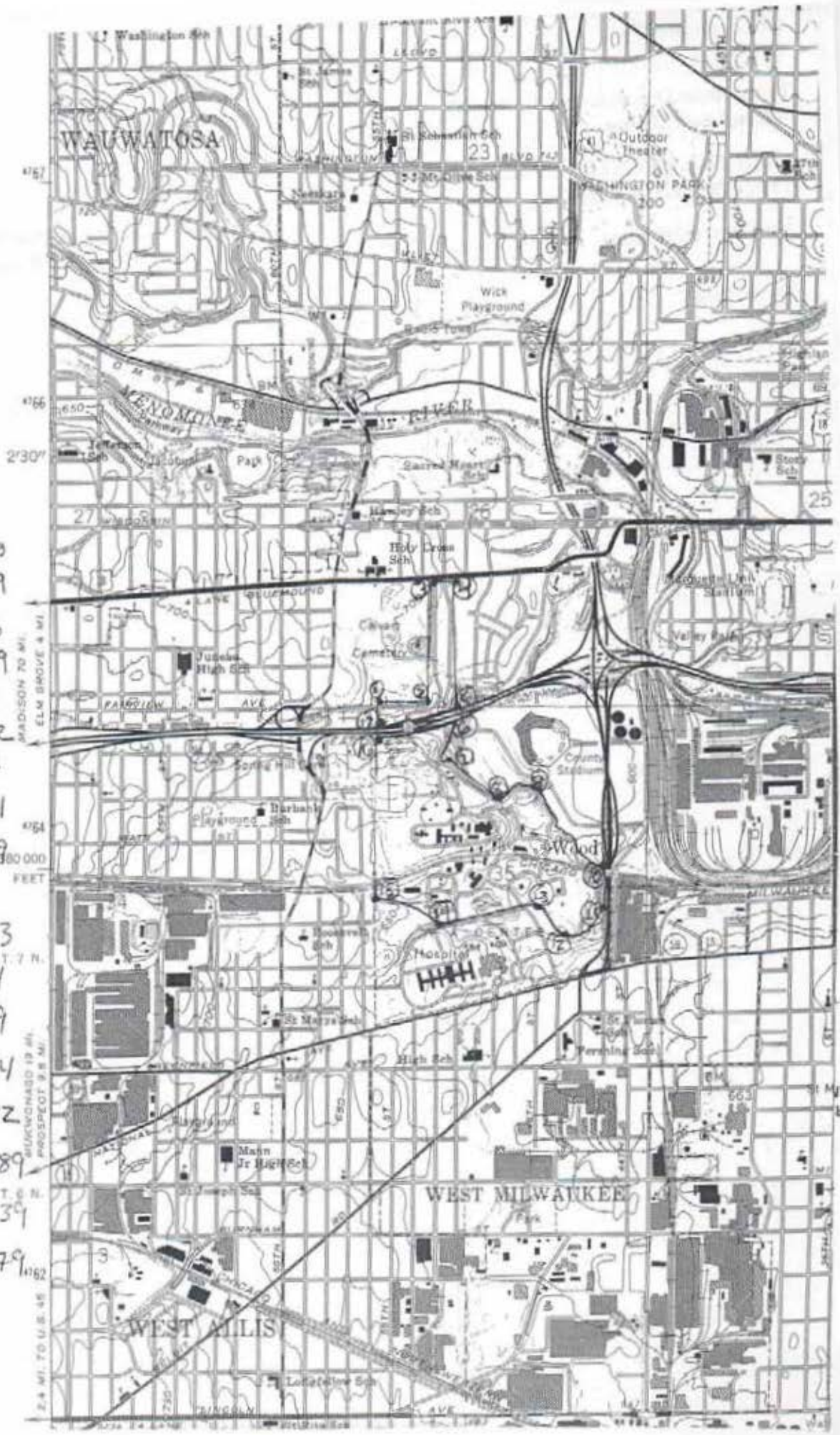
**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Additional Information Page 69

National Soldiers Home Historic District
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

USGS Map

USGS Map enclosed. See additional aerial map, also enclosed.



UTM

Eastings Northings

- 1 = 41996Z, 4764769
- 2 = 420173, 4764796
- 3 = 42023Z, 4765329
- 4 = 42023Z, 4765331
- 5 = 42029Z, 4764752
- 6 = 42029Z, 4764647
- 7 = 420331, 4764581
- 8 = 420513, 4764379
- 9 = 420665, 4764414
- 10 = 420971, 4764023
- 11 = 420971, 4763744
- 12 = 420810, 4763719
- 13 = 420659, 4763824
- 14 = 420307, 476378Z
- 15 = 41996Z, 4763889
- 16 = 41996Z, 4764639
- 17 = 41996Z, 4764679

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Additional Information Page 70

National Soldiers Home Historic District
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Sketch Map

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
CONTINUATION SHEET**

Additional Information Page 71

National Soldiers Home Historic District
Milwaukee, Wisconsin

Photographs

Photographer: Patricia A. Lynch

Photographs taken: December 20, 2005

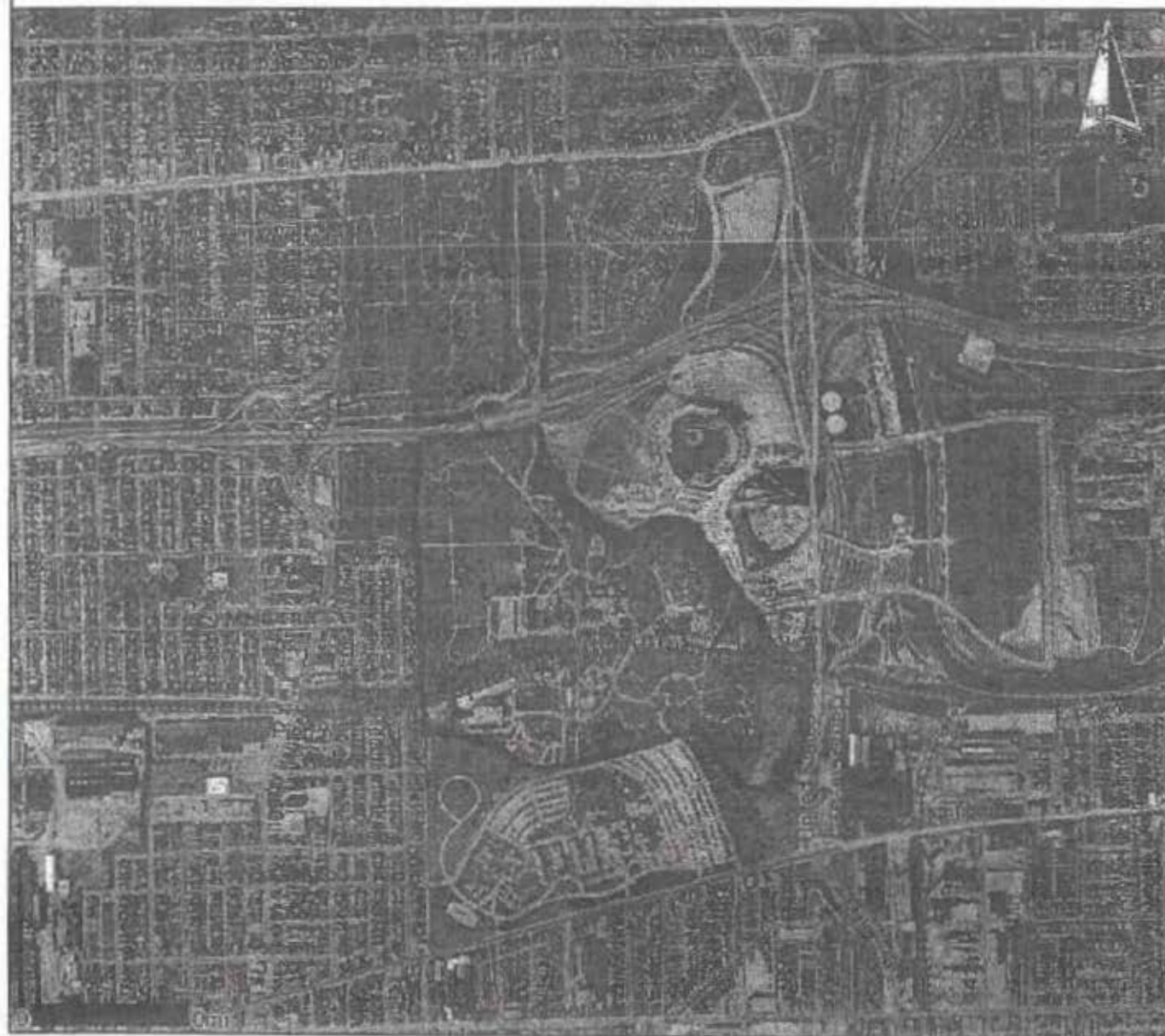
Location of negatives: Soldiers Home Foundation, Inc., Office, 5000 W. National Ave., Milwaukee, WI 53295

Photo #	Description	Vantage Point
1	Building 1 - Administration (Headquarters)	E from Wolcott Ave. in front of Building 3
2	Building 2 - Old Main (Domiciliary)	NW from General Mitchell Blvd.
3	Building 3 - Wadsworth Library	SE from Wolcott Ave. in front of Building 4
4	Building 4 - Recreation Hall	S from Wolcott Ave. in front of Building 5
6a	Building 6 - Hospital	W from Wolcott Ave. in front of Building 5
6b	Building 6 - Hospital	NW from Parking Lot off Wolcott Ave.
7	Building 6 - Domiciliary Barracks	S from service drive between Buildings 2 & 7
11	Building 11 - Firehouse	SW from General Mitchell Blvd.
12	Building 12 - Chapel	W from General Mitchell Blvd.
17	Building 17 - Surgeon & Adjutant's Quarters	NW from Chapel
18	Building 18 - Quarters	E from General Mitchell Blvd.
37	Building 37 - Quarters	E from South loop of Barron Cr.
39	Building 39 - Governor's Residence	NW from lawn south of Barron Cr.
41	Ward Memorial Hall (Theater)	W from lawn E of General Mitchell Blvd.
43	Building 43 - Hospital Annex - Domiciliary	NW from Hines Ave.
45-106	Building 45 - Powerhouse — and Smokestack	W from W entrance of Building 43
50-49	Buildings 50 and 49 - Quarters	N from Power House Dr.
53	Powder Magazine	NE from sloping lawn across from Building 2
57	Building 57 - Cemetery Reception House	SW from Walker Dr.
84	Building 84 - Garage for Buildings 49, 50	S from Power House Dr.
120	Soldiers and Sailors Monument	W from Walker Dr. in front of Building 57
OB-1	Hiker Statue	E from Hines Ave.
OB-2	Fountain	E from General Mitchell Blvd. in front of Building 2
S-1	Wood National Cemetery	N from Walker Dr. near OB-3

Map created Tue Jan 25 15:03:18 CST 2005

Legend

- Highways
- Major Highways
- Interstate
- US Highway
- State Highway
- Local Roads



Scale: 1:15,913

DO NOT USE FOR NAVIGATION

NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK NOMINATION

NPS Form 10-900

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form (Rev. 8-86)

OMB No. 1024-0018

NORTHWESTERN BRANCH, NHDVS

Page 1

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

1. NAME OF PROPERTY

Historic Name: Northwestern Branch, National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers

Other Name/Site Number: Northwestern Branch, National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers Historic District; National Soldiers Home Historic District; Clement J. Zablocki Medical Center, Department of Veterans Affairs

2. LOCATION

Street & Number: 5000 West National Avenue

Not for publication:

City/Town: Milwaukee

Vicinity:

State: WI

County: Milwaukee Code: 079

Zip Code: 53295

3. CLASSIFICATION

Ownership of Property

Private: X

Public-Local:

Public-State:

Public-Federal:

Object: X

Category of Property

Building(s):

District: X

Site:

Structure:

Number of Resources within Property

Contributing

23

3

2

2

30

Noncontributing

16 buildings

 sites

2 structures

1 objects

19 Total

Number of Contributing Resources Previously Listed in the National Register: 31

Name of Related Multiple Property Listing:

NORTHWESTERN BRANCH, NHDVS

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

Page 2

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

4. STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this ____ nomination ____ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property ____ meets ____ does not meet the National Register Criteria.

Signature of Certifying Official_____
Date_____
State or Federal Agency and Bureau

In my opinion, the property ____ meets ____ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of Commenting or Other Official_____
Date_____
State or Federal Agency and Bureau**5. NATIONAL PARK SERVICE CERTIFICATION**

I hereby certify that this property is:

- ____ Entered in the National Register
____ Determined eligible for the National Register
____ Determined not eligible for the National Register
____ Removed from the National Register
____ Other (explain): _____

Signature of Keeper_____
Date of Action

NORTHWESTERN BRANCH, NHDVS

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

Page 3

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

6. FUNCTION OR USE

Historic:	Health Care Domestic Funerary	Sub:	Hospital Institutional Housing Cemetery
Current:	Health Care Domestic Recreation Work in Progress Vacant	Sub:	Sanitarium Institutional Housing Museum

7. DESCRIPTION

ARCHITECTURAL CLASSIFICATION: Late Victorian: Gothic; Italianate; Shingle Style; Renaissance
Late 19th & 20th Century Revivals: Colonial Revival; Classical Revival.

MATERIALS:

Foundation:	Stone
Walls:	Brick
Roof:	Wood/weatherboard
Other:	Slate

NORTHWESTERN BRANCH, NHDVS

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

Page 4

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

Describe Present and Historic Physical Appearance.

The Northwestern Branch of the NHDVS is nationally significant under NHL Criterion 1 as a property that is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to our past; and NHL Theme IV, shaping the political landscape: governmental institutions, under the area of Health/Medicine. The Northwestern Branch is an outstanding representation of the development of a national system of medical and residential benefits for disabled veterans. It is particularly significant in representing the beginning of the network of veterans' benefits that began growing rapidly after the Civil War, and it became increasingly important in terms of medical and geriatric care after 1900. The Northwestern Branch was the first NHDVS branch to institute such innovations as employing professional female nurses, and providing separate quarters for elderly members, inspiring similar changes in the operations of other branches. The physical development at the Northwestern Branch also influenced the way in which subsequent branches were designed.

Founded in 1867, the former Northwestern Branch, National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers Historic District (NHDVS or Home) is situated at the west end of the U-shaped Menomonee River Valley, on the far west side of Milwaukee, Wisconsin. The main portion of the historic district is within the northern two-thirds of the Clement J. Zablocki Medical Center, Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).¹ The greater VA complex is bounded to the south by West National Avenue; to the east by Miller Park Way and the Milwaukee Brewer's Miller Park baseball stadium complex. To the north is Brewers Way (an access road to the stadium), Highway 41 and the Silurian Fossil Reef, a geological site designated as the Soldiers' Home Reef National Historic Landmark in 1992. The complex is bounded to the northwest by Interstate Highway 94 and to the west by residential neighborhoods. The approximately 90-acre historic district does not include the southern portion of the Zablocki Medical Center, excluding several very large modern buildings built by the DVA and supporting parking areas. Progressing from west to east, this excluded area is bounded roughly by Lake Wheeler Drive, North Washington Drive and General Mitchell Boulevard.

The Northwestern Branch NHDVS historic district is a medical complex of residential, hospital, and support buildings along with approximately 41 acres of the Wood National Cemetery. All of this is set within a historic landscape in a picturesque, park-like setting, in which the buildings, structures and curving roads are designed to take advantage of the high bluffs and deep ravines. There are areas of dense woods and open grassy areas, long views, a man-made lake and water course. The topography of the southern part of the district is characterized by an east-west creek drainage that is partially buried as it approaches Lake Wheeler. South from this low point, the ground then rises to North Washington Drive. The ground also rises north of the creek and drainage to the center of the district and the former Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul and Pacific Railroad line, which bisects the property east to west. Wood National Cemetery is located at the northwest corner of the property.

The Northwestern Branch is an outstanding example of facilities developed by the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers between that body's creation in 1865 and its incorporation into the Veterans Administration in 1930. The Northwestern Branch exhibits a high degree of integrity in location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association. The Northwestern Branch contains a collection of masonry structures executed in popular period styles, and early NHDVS property types not found at other homes, including the multi-purpose Main Building and pavilion style hospital. In particular, the buildings of the Northwestern Branch strongly illustrate the development of the NHDVS system --its aesthetic vision and institutional goals-- from its inception until its dissolution, and the rejection of a single-building approach to these branches in favor

¹ The medical center is named after the Wisconsin Representative, and Chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee from 1977 to 1983.

NORTHWESTERN BRANCH, NHDVS**Page 5**

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

of a decentralized building plan. Ward Memorial Hall was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 1984, and a 150-acre Northwestern Branch, National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers Historic District was listed on the National Register of Historic Places at the national level in 2005. Relative to the National Register nomination, this NHL nomination excludes a portion of the National Register boundary south and west of Lake Wheeler Drive.²

The Northwestern Branch NHDVS district contains a total of forty-eight resources, of which thirty contribute to the significance of the district: twenty-three buildings, two structures, three sites and two objects. All of the eighteen non-contributing resources were constructed after the end of the NHDVS period of national significance (1867-1930). Of these, most of the fifteen buildings are small and do not intrude greatly into the historic view shed. Another two structures and one object are also noncontributing. An inventory of these resources is included in the following descriptive narrative.

An important resource within the district is the landscape, which retains its original Picturesque style site plan, circulation patterns, building locations, portions of water features, and cemetery created by Thomas Budd Van Horne. The plan is clearly evident, and incorporates the natural landscape features to focus and frame the main buildings. The site slopes gently down to a low point in the middle of the district, which is bisected by the Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul Railroad, then rises again to the north. The majority of the historic buildings are located on this upward-sloping ground in the north half of the district. The main road, now General Mitchell Boulevard and historically known as Central Avenue, follows a roughly open "S" curve through the Home, moving from the southeast corner of the property to the northwest. Lesser roads branch off the boulevard to access residences, administrative, care and maintenance facilities, following the contours of the site. The extreme southeast portion of General Mitchell Boulevard has been realigned to accommodate the new hospital construction/parking area, and that portion is not within the NHL district boundary. On the northeastern boundary, a thick screen of trees on the steeply sloping Soldiers Home Reef shields views to newer development outside the district boundary. The cemetery to the northwest dates to 1871; before that date, some burials for the Home took place in a Catholic cemetery near the site.

Original landscaping at the Northwestern Branch included a water fountain, cannons, bandstands, planting beds and colorful flower gardens. Within the original 375 acres was also farmland, four lakes and three gatehouses. One of the lakes, Lake Wheeler, survives in a modified form at the south end of the district. Of the others, Lake Hincks was removed during the period of significance to accommodate the maintenance area. Both Spring Lake, later known as Lake Huston and situated adjacent to the cemetery, and a farm lake, no longer exist. Spring Lake was infilled and is now covered by Interstate 94; the farm lake is no longer within the Zablocki Medical Center property boundary. The bandstands, cannons, flowers and gardens are also gone, but the 1870 fountain remains in front of the Main Building, as do numerous mature trees. A conservatory located south of the railroad and near the governors quarters in the late nineteenth century was gone by 1917.

The Northwestern Branch buildings are grouped in six clusters and reflect a response to both the former Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul Railroad and the topography. These clusters consist of a historic core of main buildings, administration-recreation facilities, maintenance buildings, utility buildings, and two residential areas, one to the south and one to the north. Indicative of the evolution of the Home, there are a variety of architectural styles represented, as well as construction materials.

² Northwestern Branch resources constructed between 1930 and 1955 are identified as noncontributing for the NHDVS period of significance; they are, however, contributing resources to a national period of National Register significance for the greater history of the Veterans Administration.

NORTHWESTERN BRANCH, NHDVS**Page 6**

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

The historic core of main hospital and barracks buildings were placed uphill and north of the railroad, and roughly aligned along the tracks. Four of the five buildings are constructed of “Cream City” brick.³ These consist of the Main Building (Building 2), the hospital and convalescent ward addition (Building 6), two barracks (Building 5 and 7), and the fire engine house and chief engineer’s quarters (Building 11). The Main Building is the dominant resource in the district, a large 1867 Victorian Gothic structure designed by the prominent Milwaukee architect Edward Townsend Mix. Located on a high point in the district, the building was sited to take advantage of breezes and vistas. It faces east towards the Milwaukee commercial center. Four corner towers were added in 1875-1876. This building housed all residential facilities for Home members from 1869 until 1884. An important building of note, the first hospital (built in 1867), was located at some distance southwest from the Main Building and separated by the railroad track. It was demolished in 1960. In 1879, a three-pavilion hospital (Building 6) was constructed further west of the Main Building. This building faces south, overlooking the wide valley space and West National Avenue. The siting of the hospital appears to have been an attempt to readjust the orientation of the historic core buildings from the east to the south. The topography and the rail line may also have influenced this arrangement, which encouraged development along an east-west axis; with the Main Building occupying the dominant site on the property, and the Picturesque landscape design of curvilinear roads and water features to the east, the logical building options were to the west or north. A convalescent ward was added to the hospital in 1880. The long axis of this building runs north-south, and may have been intended as the west side of an enclosed area at first defined by the rear of the Main Building on the east and to the south by the easternmost hospital pavilion. This enclosed area was further defined on the north with the construction of the fire engine house in 1883, and the first barracks (Building 5) in 1884 on the southeast, between the hospital and main building. An additional barrack (Building 7) was constructed in 1888, directly west of the rear of the Main Building, and oriented north-south to parallel the 1880 convalescent ward. The hospital and the two barracks were designed by Henry C. Koch, another prominent Milwaukee architect, in a straightforward Italianate style. The identification of the same architect for buildings that formed sides of the enclosure suggests that Koch may have been attempting to create a new or a secondary focus for the Northwestern Branch.

The administration-recreation facilities cluster is also located adjacent to and either side of the railroad line, southeast of the Main Building. As with the historic core, all but one building is constructed of Cream City brick. This cluster is made up of the 1881 Ward Memorial Hall (Building 41), the 1892 Wadsworth Library (Building 3), the 1894 social hall (Building 4), and the 1895 headquarters building (Building 1). These buildings were built over a 14-year period, and are grouped to maintain a visual focus on the Main Building. Buildings 1, 3 and 4 created a second enclosed space on the south side of the Main Building. The arrangement allowed close proximity to the hospitals and barracks while maintaining the Picturesque landscape setting to the east. The oddly configured area between Buildings 1, 3 and 4 with the walkway to Building 41 was identified as the “Parade Ground” in a 1917 photo souvenir of the Home. Building 41, easily accessible to members and the public due to its location immediately south of the railroad line, also provided an office for the railroad company and allowed rail travelers to see the variety of services provided to the Home’s members. As with the Main Building, this Victorian Gothic style Ward Memorial Hall was designed by Henry C. Koch. The three later buildings exhibit very restrained handling of various revival styles popular near the turn of the 20th century. Building 1 has Renaissance Revival features, such as brick belt coursing, small second floor windows, and first floor window cornice treatment. Building 3 was done in a Classical Revival style, and Building 4 in a Colonial Revival style.

³ This cream-colored material was manufactured in Milwaukee, and “Cream City” is a name give to the city because of its predominant use of such brick. Manufactured from a Lacustrine clay deposit found along the western shore of Lake Michigan, it fires to a buff color. By the mid-19th century, six million bricks were produced in Milwaukee kilns annually. “Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin,” Madison: State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1986, cited in “Dictionary of Wisconsin History,” *Wisconsin Historical Society*, 6 October 2008, <https://www.wisconsinhistory.org/dictionary>.

NORTHWESTERN BRANCH, NHDVS**Page 7**

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

Maintenance buildings are clustered north of the historic core buildings, and very close to the rail line, facilitating transfer of materials from the rail cars to the buildings. As this area grew during the historic period, the road system remained relatively unchanged, but Lake Hincks was infilled. Trees screen the west side of this maintenance area from the historic core cluster. The largest and oldest of the structures is the 1895 quartermaster's storehouse (Building 20). The storehouse is built of Cream City brick with little stylistic elaboration. A large addition was built on the east of the structure in 1938; it has minimal stylistic treatment. After 1930, smaller service buildings built in this maintenance cluster include a small-scale 1938 brick paint shop (Building 97), a one-story 1941 garage (Building 99), three Quonset huts erected in 1947 for storage (Buildings T-105, T-106 and T-107), and two two-story 1957 buildings, the grounds maintenance shop (Building 107) and the engineering storage shops (Building 108).

The cluster of utility buildings is located west of Ward Memorial Hall, down slope and southwest of the hospital (Building 6), and south of the railroad tracks. As with the maintenance area, this proximity to the rail line facilitated access to materials transported to the Home. The grade level change between the hospital and the utility area partially screened views to this service area. Today, the screening is reinforced by mature trees. The utility area developed at the turn of the century, near the Northwestern Branch's second hospital (demolished). Because of the number of modern buildings in the utility area, the NHL boundary is drawn so as to exclude them. The most prominent and oldest of the utility buildings is the 1895 power house (Building 45). Two two-story frame duplex quarters built in 1909 (Buildings 49 and 50) are in this area as well. There is one one-story garage within the boundary, a garage built in 1938 (Building 84), and a 1964 power plant (Building 112). Recent development in the utility area has resulted in the removal of a greenhouse and a smoke stack for Building 45, and a Queen Anne treasurer's quarters. While there have been a number of changes to the utility area, the road system associated with it has remained relatively unchanged since its creation. Situated between the administration-entertainment cluster and the utility cluster is the 1933 hospital annex (Building 43), built on the location of the former Home store.

In order to present an understanding of the greater utility area, the following description is of the area outside the NHL boundary: There are two more one-story garages; one built in 1935 (Building 81) and another in 1938 (also numbered Building 84). Immediate to the railroad tracks is an auto crash research facility (Building A) and nearby a two-story 1955 laundry (Building 102), and a 1973 incinerator, now storage building (Building 119).⁴

The south residential area is located in the southeast corner of the district between the railroad tracks and the creek watercourse. In this area, separated from the majority of Home buildings, the ground rises to the northeast, affording scenic views across the campus towards Lake Wheeler. Three quarters were built in this park-like area characterized by broad undulating lawns, tree clusters, and winding narrow roadways. The oldest quarters is the 1867-1868 governors quarters (Building 39), attributed to Edward Townsend Mix through a comparison with Mix's own house on Waverly Place in Milwaukee (demolished). The governor's quarters was originally built in an Italianate Villa style characterized by tall round-headed windows, shallow bays, and a tower element pushed in the junction of the two cross gables of the building mass. Like the administration, barracks, and hospital buildings, the governor's quarters is built of cream-colored brick. The tower roof was covered in polychromatic bands similar to the roof treatment on the Main Building. Between 1889 and 1916, the main roof of the house was raised, the bays were increased to two stories, and the tower roof was replaced with a conical element. The remaining quarters in the area include the former quartermaster's quarters

⁴ These buildings were included in the 2005 National Register nomination for the Northwestern Branch, National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers, with Buildings 81 and 84 considered contributing to a larger period of significance.

NORTHWESTERN BRANCH, NHDVS**Page 8**

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

(Building 37), a simple frame Colonial Revival side-gabled structure built in 1902, and located in the far southeastern corner of the district. The third quarters was a duplex quarters, built for the secretary and the surgeon in 1867-1868. It was demolished in 1985, but its 1938 garage (Building 60) remains.

Located north of the historic core of main buildings, the north residential area roughly borders the Wood National Cemetery at the northwest side of the district. This area contains frame buildings. The principal building is the Shingle Style 1889 chapel (Building 12), which also contains elements of the Queen Anne style in its asymmetrically-placed turreted tower. The chapel is characterized by the broad mass of the roof, the grid-like arrangement of the windows, and the contrasting patterns of wood siding and shingles. The architect of the chapel was Henry C. Koch, the principal architect for Northwestern Branch buildings in the 1880s and 1890s. The other buildings in this area are quarters and garages. The Shingle Style duplex secretary and assistant surgeon's quarters (Building 17) was built in 1887 on the northwest side of the area, convenient to the hospital (Building 6). Although the popularity of the Queen Anne style was waning by the turn of the century, aspects of it can be seen in the nearby 1901 Protestant chaplain's quarters (Building 16). Its neighbor, the 1909 Catholic chaplain's quarters (Building 14), was executed in the popular Colonial Revival style, as were three duplex quarters built to the northeast (Building 18, 1916; Building 19, 1921; and Building 62, 1922).

Other resources in the district include cemetery structures, such as the 1900 cemetery reception house (Building 57), a small stone structure with a conical metal roof located adjacent to the Soldiers Monument (Building 120). The Soldiers Monument is an obelisk topped with the figure of a Civil War soldier was erected in the northwest corner of the cemetery in 1903. The Hiker Monument, located in front of Building 43, was dedicated to Spanish-American War veterans in 1941. Seven cast iron with verses from the poem "Bivouac of the Dead," installed at the Northwestern Branch in the 1880s, were reset in stone mounts in 1941.

There are four large buildings located on the south side of the wide valley-like area outside the historic district. These structures are the former 1922-1923 tuberculosis hospital (Building 70); the 1966 general medical and surgical hospital (Building 111); a 1979 domiciliary (Building 123); and the DVA regional office Building 5400). Three Home era quarters also survive in this area. Two were built in 1916 (Buildings 61 and 79), and one between 1917 and 1929 (Building 56). Due to extensive changes in the area, these have not been included within the NHL district boundary nor were they included within the 2005 National Register of Historic Places boundary. Most of the new construction post-dates 1930. Building 70 had originally been located in the completely open southwest corner of the Home grounds to provide maximum fresh air and sunlight, and to isolate the tubercular patients from the other Home members. In 1938, a large addition was built on the west side of Building 70 when it was converted to a general medical and surgical hospital. By the mid-1960s Building 70 was no longer adequate to meet patient needs and Building 111 was built directly east of the 1923 facility. In the mid-1970s, to provide additional domiciliary space, the 1938 addition and the west wing of Building 70 were demolished and Building 123 was built. Extensive parking lots have been built to the east of Building 111 and to the north of Building 123. Buildings 56, 61, 70, and 79 have been overwhelmed by the larger, newer facilities and the parking area and have lost their physical connection to the NHDVS story.

One of the three oldest Home campuses to be established, the historic core of the Northwestern Branch is remarkably intact, and has suffered the loss of relatively few of its significant buildings. The historic core contains six clusters of resource types critical to interpreting the early history of the NHDVS. The Main Building survives as a very rare and original example of the earliest development efforts of the NHDVS Board of Managers. The road system, landscape, and cemetery recall the original site plan as well as its development during the period of significance, 1867-1930. While a number of the original buildings, including the first hospital, the train depot, hotel, nurse's quarters, entrance gates, guard house, greenhouse, small physical plant, and service buildings as well as the colorful flower gardens and farmlands are gone, new construction has

NORTHWESTERN BRANCH, NHDVS**Page 9**

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

generally not taken place on the sites of former buildings. Instead, post-1930s development and the modern buildings of the Clement J. Zablocki Medical Center, Department of Veterans Affairs, are to the south and separated from the core NHDVS property by railroad tracks, a water channel, and the area's topography. Numerous garages were built in the late 1930s to serve quarters constructed at earlier dates. The garages are small and do not visually intrude upon the scene. As a result of separation between the major modern buildings and post-1930s development and the historic core, the historic campus retains a high degree of integrity as an individual unit.

The following description of resources is organized in general by building numbers assigned by the Veterans Administration/Department of Veterans Affairs.⁵ In some instances, the DVA uses the word "Building" for resources that will be identified in this nomination as structures.

BUILDINGS

Building 1	Headquarters	1895-96	Contributing
-------------------	---------------------	----------------	---------------------

This Renaissance Revival style building has a shallow "U" shape plan oriented with the open end to the west. The foundation is cut stone with mortar joints that are tooled to imitate coursed ashlar. The exterior bearing walls are brick masonry construction (painted a cream color), and there is a water table. On the north, east, and south sides of the building the foundation protrudes about 2" at the water table level to form a decorative molding. The floor joists and other interior framing are wood construction.

The main entrance to the building is located in the center of the open end of the "U" configuration and faces west. The entrance is defined by a narrow, one story portico that runs the length of the center building section between the wings. The six full and two engaged Tuscan order columns of the portico support a flat metal deck. The deck is accessed by either a centered second story wood and glass door or by a small metal "ships" ladder that extends to the ground on the right side of the portico. There is a sign that reads "Milwaukee Wi." over the steps to the portico. The entry portico is reached by two concrete steps as well as a concrete ramp. Modern pipe railings are used at both the ramp and steps. The west entrance is protected by an added white wooden wind-screen enclosure. The panel door has an upper glass pane and ornate hardware. There are two basement exits on the south side at grade and one exit on the east side that is approximately three feet below grade.

There are three windows on each floor of the west end of the wings. The windows continue around the entire building in the same pattern spacing. The first floor windows are four-over-four light sash windows with jack arches. A brick belt course extends around the first floor above the windows, stepping above the arches. The second floor windows are also four-over-four light sash that are smaller vertically than the first floor windows. All the windows have stone sills and aluminum storms. The windows are framed with a concave brick molding measuring about 3" wide and deep. Some hardware for awnings still exists on the wood window frames.

The building has a hipped roof with built-in gutters and green composition shingles, except for the portico roof, which is metal. There are two small hip roofed dormers on either side of the west entrance. They have small wood frame, single-pane, fixed windows. At the center of the ridge between the two dormers is a cupola with a

⁵ The Section 7 text and building descriptions for this nomination are adapted from Halverson, et. al., "Northwestern Branch" National Register nomination, which in turn had been based upon Planning and Design Institute, Inc., "Clement Zablocki Veterans Administration Medical Center, Historic Preservation Plan," January, 1992.

NORTHWESTERN BRANCH, NHDVS**Page 10**

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

flared, pyramidal roof, the top part of which forms a finial. Three sides of the cupola have louvers and the fourth side facing the west has a clock.

The interior of Building 1 contains a stairway running through the first floor lobby. This stair leading to the other levels had been originally framed by two arches, one for the run to the basement and one for the run to the second floor. One arch was eliminated to enclose the stair leading to the second floor but the arch leading to the basement stair is intact. Flooring has been covered with a variety of modern materials including rubber, resilient tile, and carpeting. Walls are plaster. The southeast room (former post office) has walls and ceiling covered with embossed metal. This room retains its original brass, glass and wood mail slots. Some modern partitions have been added to the original plan, and fluorescent strip lighting is used in the main floor and upstairs lobby, and in many of the offices. Typical doors are panel and glass with transoms, and some original hardware survives. Door trim includes circular corner bull's eyes. The building is currently used for Veteran's Service Offices.

Building 2 Main Building**1867-69; 1876-77 Contributing**

Architect Edward Townsend Mix designed this Victorian Gothic style building, which occupies the most prominent place on the site. Located on a high point in the ground elevation, it can be seen from all points in the complex and from the expressway. The location and design were intended to provide major visual impact at the Home. Building 2 is a "T" shaped building. The top of the "T" forms the main façade, which is oriented to the east. There is one tower centered on the east facade and four lower towers at the corners of the top of the "T." The base of the "T" has a wing that was added at an unknown date on the north side. The building varies in height from three stories with basement in the straighter middle sections to four stories with basement at the north and south end towers and central core section. The entrance tower on the east side is six stories high.

The building has a cut stone foundation wall of coursed ashlar pattern with flush mortar joints. The only exception to this is the newer north wing, which does not have a stone foundation. The exterior bearing walls are Cream City brick masonry. The floor joists and other interior framing are wood construction. Wall ornamentation includes rectangular recessed brick panels, decorative brick and stone belt courses, and corbelling at the tower eaves. The second story on the south side of the base of the "T" has paired, engaged brick pilasters without bases or capitals. The south side of the top of the "T" of this building shows evidence of a removed porch three stories high. This porch can be seen in early photographs. Large arched brick openings, which perhaps enclosed pairs of double doors, have been infilled with Cream City brick on the south side. Double hung windows are set within these openings and are much smaller than the former openings. Many belt courses serve as continuous window sills. Windows are typically one-over-one sash, although they vary in width and height between floors and sections. With the exception of the four-story tower windows, they all have either a brick segmental arch or a Gothic incorporated in or around the transom or tracery. Engaged brick pilasters flank each of the windows. Sashes are painted a tomato red color. The four-story towers have sets of windows with segmental brick arches. The base of the "T" has four-over-four sash windows, while the newer, north wing off the base of the "T" has modern aluminum windows in sets of two.

The building has a tri-color slate shingle mansard roof; the towers retain their original iron cresting. The shingles repeat from a zigzag fish scale pattern to a simple rectangular lap pattern. The most noticeable pattern is on the fourth-story roof around the core portion of the building. Other mansard roofing material is composition shingle. The north wing has a flat roof. Gabled dormers are set in the roof, decorated with Gothic tracery surrounding two tall, narrow double-hung windows topped with a shorter double-hung window. In the towers, there are single windows rather than sets of two.

NORTHWESTERN BRANCH, NHDVS**Page 11**

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

The main entrance to the building located on the east side is a modern, metal and glass, storefront entry. Beyond the modern door entrance, there is a pair of doors with wood Gothic tracery at the transom. At the basement level of the south facade is an enclosed entrance and waiting area for buses made of aluminum storefront material with a cream colored brick base. There is a similar but smaller enclosure framing the entrance on the north side. There is also an entrance off a small loading dock on the north side addition. The dock is open with a simple flat metal canopy.

The first floor of the east tower is open on three sides with high, Gothic arches. The steps rise on the fourth side to the main entrance to the building. The piers rest on a base that is made of light buff, cut stone similar to the foundation walls. The slate roof has light and dark tiles in varying patterns. There were balconies at the third floor windows of the tower on the east side and other locations. They have been removed but traces of them can be seen in the brickwork and in early photographs.

The interior floor plan has rooms located off the main corridor leading from the entrance wing and along the two wings perpendicular to it. There are shallow arches distinguishing the main level entrance corridor at the east and west ends. The arches are terminated with large molded pendants. A series of five shallow pointed arches are at the corridor intersection in the center of the building. The west wing at the opposite end of the main corridor contains the dining hall on the first floor level. The hall has three rows of plain slender columns and a large kitchen facility at the north end. This serving kitchen and dishwashing area has quarry tile floors, tile walls, and some skylights. Laundry facilities, storage, and mechanical areas are also located in the basement along with a large canteen with a seating area. The fifth floor level is in the base of the mansard and has dormer windows set in deep wells at the floor level. This level has a small floor area and a partial height partition system. In the central tower, the second and third floor levels have raised seating areas accessed by short flights of stairs. Surviving interior detailing includes terrazzo floors in the corridors, plaster walls, vertical board wainscoting in some rooms, many original panel doors, heavily molded door trim, old heating grillwork, and some door hardware. Building 2 is currently vacant.

A lawn area extends along the front of the east and part of the north sides. This rolling park-like area is dotted with a few shrubs, flower beds and flowering trees; directly in front of Building 2 is a fountain. General Mitchell Boulevard passes by the east and north sides, and Wolcott Avenue is located along the south side.

Building 3 Wadsworth Library**1891****Contributing**

Building 3 is a one and one-half story Classical Revival style building in a rectangular plan with a truncated hip roof. The main entrance faces north. The grade slopes to the south, thereby creating a near-full-light basement on the south side. The foundation is rough cut Wisconsin limestone of large rectangular blocks in even coursing that have been repointed. The original mortar joints were tooled in a raised pattern at the horizontal and vertical joints. Walls are constructed of Cream City brick. Engaged brick columns with carved ogee capitals and rough stone bases divide the walls into bays on all four sides. There are five bays across the front and back, and nine bays along each side. Each bay contains a three-over-three double hung window and a recessed stone panel above the window. This panel consists of six courses of brick-sized, pitched-face stones. Window sills and lintels are smooth stone. Each bay also has a corresponding basement window. Centrally located within a blank entablature on the north facade is an oblong sign with "Wadsworth Library" written in gold letters. There is a gabled dormer at the center of this north side roof, containing three one-over-one windows. A similar dormer on the south side is divided by corbelled chimney. The roof is covered with composition shingles, and the cornice is accented by large dentils. A gabled monitor skylight terminates the roof.

NORTHWESTERN BRANCH, NHDVS**Page 12**

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

A recessed entrance is located at the northwest corner of the north façade. The corner is completed by a single freestanding column. There is now indoor/outdoor carpeting covering the concrete steps. These railings extend out and around the freestanding column and the engaged columns at the sides of the steps. There are holes that indicate where earlier handrails were set into the stone work. A small globe light hangs in the recessed portico. The entrance to the Library has a modern aluminum door and storefront system with side light and transom. There are two other exits, both are on the south side of the building. One exit is on the first floor level and leads to an exterior metal stairway. The other leads from the basement and is on grade. This exit is framed in a newer wood and metal wind-screen enclosure.

The interior of Building 3 is essentially a large rectangular two-story room at the first floor level. There is a narrow staircase in the northeast corner that leads to a balcony that runs along the outside walls overlooking the main reading room below. The balcony is supported by slender cast iron columns with Corinthian type capitals. The ceiling of the reading room is supported with trusses of wood and steel. The skylight subwindow of amber glass is intact, but the upper gabled skylight has been covered. Strip fluorescent lighting fixtures are suspended from the ceiling trusses. At the south end of the main room is a fireplace with a mantle of applied scrollwork and various other carved elements. Surviving interior detailing includes terrazzo floors in the men's room, plaster walls, original doors and door hardware, heavily molded door trim, and some door hardware. A chain-operated dumbwaiter for books connects the main level to the balcony level. The building is vacant.

Building 4 Social Hall**1894****Contributing**

Building 4 is a two-story, frame Colonial Revival style building in a rectangular plan with a gable-on-hip roof. The main entrance faces north. The grade slopes to the south, creating a near-full-light basement on the south side. The foundation is pitch-faced stone in regular courses below a brick wall. The mortar joints of the foundation are tooled. The roof is covered with composition shingles. The building is sided in narrow clapboards painted white, with vertical board engaged pilasters that divide the walls into bays. The north and south sides have three bays; the south and east have six. Between the second floor windows and the roofline is a blank wood entablature. Windows in each bay are pairs of one-over-one sash. Above the windows on the first floor, the original transoms have been covered by metal panels painted white. The windows at the basement level have semicircular arches and pitch-faced stone sills.

The main entrance is on the northeast corner, within a shed roof, one story portico. The portico is supported by square columns. On the portico is a board sign with "Recreation Bldg." painted in black. There is a one and one-half story, semi-circular bay with a flat roof at the northwest corner, which contains an interior staircase. The first floor of the bay has been enclosed with vertical boards, although the second retains its engaged pilasters separating narrow one-over-one windows. The main entrance doors are modern aluminum storefront type with large glass panes and a single pane transom. A modern flush door with a single light is located at the end of the semi-circular bay, providing access to the interior staircase.

The building interior first and second floors are both one large room. The first floor and basement ceilings are supported by four central columns with simple capitals of ogee trim. The basement houses a bowling alley. Surviving interior materials include a few four-panel doors with original hardware, plaster walls and ceilings, and a newel post with inset beaded panels. The DVA made extensive renovations to the interior to create office space in 2004-2005. The building is used as a social center and library.

NORTHWESTERN BRANCH, NHDVS**Page 13**

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

Building 5 Barracks**1884****Contributing**

Based on its similarity to Buildings 6 and 7, the design of Building 5 is attributed to architect Henry C. Koch, and displays Italianate-style elements. Building 5 is a three-story, rectangular building with a mansard roof. The roof is covered in asphalt shingles. Shallow cross-gabled bays with mansard roofs are centrally located on the south and north sides. Simple fluted brackets accent the rake edges of the roof, and the gable ends are sided with shingles. East and west of the bays are shed-roof dormers. The building sits on a random coursed ashlar stone foundation and has a large stone water table and Cream City brick walls. The interior is wood frame construction. Windows are typically six-over-six double hung, although the dormer windows are nine-over-nine light sash, and basement windows are three-pane. The building has two joined chimneys with decorative corbelling, located at the juncture of the cross-gabled bays.

The main entrance is centrally located in a south-facing cross gable, and accessed by concrete steps. Entry doors are double aluminum, storefront style, set into a brick arch, which is supported by engaged brick columns. A handicap access ramp is located at the southeast corner.

The structure's most outstanding architectural feature is its two-tiered, open porch. It extends the entire length of the south side of the building, and has square columns with chamfered corners. Iron railings extend between the columns. The center portion of the second-story cross gable has been enclosed and includes modern one-over-one windows, and doors on the north and south. The levels are connected with exterior metal stairs. The building is used by the Great Lakes Service Center.

Building 6 Hospital**1879****Contributing**

Architect Henry C. Koch designed this Italianate style, pavilion plan hospital building. The original portion of Building 6 is laid out roughly in an "E" shape, with four wards. The front entrance is located at the south end of the three-story second ward from the east, and faces south. The other three wards are two and two and one-half stories in height and the connecting sections are two stories over basements. The foundation is of random coursed, pitch-faced cut stone. There is a newer addition on the north that has a stone foundation matching closely that of the original building. The exterior bearing walls are multi-toned, common bond brick without headers except for the north addition, which is finished in Cream City brick.

The focal point of the building's mixed architectural style is the three-story entrance pavilion. The pavilion has a truncated hip roof with shallow cross gables for shallowly-projecting bays on the south, east and west. The gables on the east and west sides are clipped. The roof is covered with composition shingle and retains its metal cresting. There are eight ornately corbelled chimneys. Windows are narrow four-over-four with Tudor arch hood molds and stone sills. The bases of the arches connect to bands of brick soldier coursing set at an angle to the wall plane. In the south-facing cross gable, a Palladian-style window pattern has a central section infilled with a louver, the sides infilled with plywood. On the east and west gable ends, there are two windows flanking exterior wall chimneys. The main entrance is sheltered within a one-story portico in the central cross gable. The portico has a large cornice and entablature supported by single round corner columns. It is topped with a flat deck and an ornate wrought iron railing. The entrance door is a double leaf, aluminum and glass storefront type set within a recessed Tudor arch. There is a second entry on the west side with a pair of modern double doors. The two-story connecting sections between the wings of the "E" have gable roofs covered with composition shingle and four-over-four, double-hung windows. The first floor windows have segmental arches while the second floor has semicircular arches.

NORTHWESTERN BRANCH, NHDVS**Page 14**

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

The east and west wards of the original "E" were originally identical, and still retain their basic form with two sets of cross gables. Both have four-over-four windows with Tudor arch hood molds. Gable end chimneys on the south have been removed on both wings. Two metal ridge vents remain. A two-story porch on the south side of the east ward is gone, and the brick is painted white. The two-story porch on the north end of the east side has been enclosed. The west ward of the original "E" has a south-facing two-story porch attached to the hexagonal bay, although it has been enclosed and infilled with single pane, double-hung windows. At the northwest and northeast corners are large chimneys with extensive corbelling and inset brick ribbing. The west ward also retains a large chimney type structure open at the top and capped with a hipped metal roof with cresting. This elaborate detail has corner posts of fan-shaped decorative brackets. At the north end of this wing is an elaborate large chimney with the same corbelling found on the central entry pavilion.

The two-story north ward has a hipped roof and paired windows. Soldier course brick is located over the large pairs of first floor windows.

The large two-story, gabled addition at the west end of Building 6 is brick, painted white. Shallow cross gables are located in the center of the building on the east and west sides. Four brick chimneys are located in the center of the building, near the intersections between cross gable and main gable. A frame porch with chamfered square posts wraps around the north, south and west ends. Handrails are modern pipe. Wood stairways connecting the two porch levels flank the central bay of the west side. At the second floor are a pair of French doors. The porches on the north end of the west side, and on the east side, are enclosed and have aluminum, double-hung windows.

The wards of the hospital are generally one large room; however, the far west ward and the entrance pavilion contain office space. Surviving interior detailing includes plaster walls. Most doors have been replaced and the transoms boarded over. Ornamentation is limited to the entrance lobby. The building is partially occupied as a Veteran's Administration Regional Office.

Building 7 Barracks**1888****Contributing**

Building 7, also designed by Henry C. Koch, is very similar to Building 5. Building 7 is a three-story, rectangular building that displays Italianate-style elements, including a mansard roof. The roof is covered in asphalt shingles. Shallow cross-gabled bays with mansard roofs are centrally located on the south and north sides. Simple fluted brackets accent the rake edges of the roof, and the gable ends are sided with shingles. East and west of the bays are shed-roof dormers. The building sits on a random coursed ashlar stone foundation and has a stone water table and Cream City brick walls. The interior is wood frame construction. Windows are typically six-over-six double hung, although the dormer windows are nine-over-nine light sash, and basement windows are three-pane. The building has two joined chimneys with decorative corbelling, located at the juncture of the cross gabled bays.

The main entrance is centrally located in the west-facing cross gable. Entry doors are double aluminum, storefront style, set into a brick arch, which is supported by engaged brick columns. A handicap access ramp is located at the southeast corner. The structure's most outstanding architectural feature is its two-tiered, open porch. It extends the entire length of the west side of the building, and has square columns with chamfered corners. Iron railings extend between the columns. The porch levels are connected by exterior metal stairs. The center portion of the second-story cross gable has been enclosed, and includes modern one-over-one windows, and doors on the north and south. The building is used as a treatment center.

NORTHWESTERN BRANCH, NHDVS**Page 15**

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

Building 11 Fire Engine House & Chief Engineer's Quarters 1883**Contributing**

Building 11 is a two-story duplex built of Cream City brick, containing elements of the Queen Anne style in its asymmetrical design and brick detailing. It has a gable roof covered in composition shingle, and the lower ends of the gables have large brackets bridging the cornice at the eave to the brickwork below. The building has a partial basement of cut stone and brick, and full attic. There is an internal brick chimney with corbelling. One shallow cross gable is located at the southeast corner of the south side, and a second, three-sided cross gable bay near the center of the north (front) facade. The gable ends in both are finished with clapboard. Windows are typically one-over-one with a segmental arch above, but their arrangement varies by wall.

On the north side, a frame and screen porch extends west from the bay, to the northwest corner. Inside the screening is a wood turned balustrade. East of the bay, a small frame screen entry porch provides access to the second duplex unit. The porch encloses a window and a door with glass pane. On the second floor there are four sash windows.

The east side of the building retains design elements reflecting the building's original use. On the first floor, there are two large elliptical arches of soldier course brick and a double course of corbelled brick above. Below these arches are two sets of triple, double-hung windows. These replaced the original double doors of the Engine House. On the second floor there are four double-hung windows with stone sills and elliptical arches.

Surviving interior details include plaster walls, a white marble fireplace, and grey marble hearth. Building 11 is vacant.

Building 12 Chapel**1889****Contributing**

Architect Henry C. Koch designed this Shingle Style frame chapel which displays some Queen Anne features. Building 12 is essentially in the shape of a cross. The main gabled axis runs east-west, with the transept created by lower cross-gables. A small one-story sacristy wing with a Swedish gambrel roof is on the west end. There is a dominant bell tower at the southeast corner and a central steeple. The roofs are covered in composition shingle. The foundation is brick that has been painted grey. The building is sided with a combination of clapboards and shingles. At the base of the building below the windowsill are shingles cut in saw-toothed and scallop-edged patterns. Above this is a section of narrow width clapboards that continue to the window heads. Above this band are more shingles. At the gable ends of the transepts the stained-glass windows are flanked by flared, shed extensions of the wall shingling with a simple molding beneath.

The most prominent features are the bell tower and the central steeple. The bell tower has a tall, pyramidal roof with a five-sided engaged turret at the southeast corner. The tower siding is essentially the same as on the main massing of the building—alternating patterns of clapboard and shingles. There is a flared clapboard skirting with dentiled and beaded molding above the first floor. Narrow one-over-one windows with square transoms are located on the second floor. There are steeply-pitched, hip roof wall dormers with flared eaves and finials at the top of the tower. They contain louvered vents. An elaborate metal cross finial surmounts the tower, detailed in a fan shape with decorative spirals. Complementing the bell tower is a central steeple located at the transept crossing. Much shorter and slimmer than the tower, it also has louvers beneath the eaves, a pyramidal hipped roof, and a decorative metal finial.

On the south side, a narrow veranda stretches from the entry porch on the southeast corner to the southwest transept ending with a door. The Chapel's large gabled roof flares slightly to cover the veranda, which is enclosed by a balustrade. Two stained glass triple windows overlook the veranda from the Chapel. On the

NORTHWESTERN BRANCH, NHDVS**Page 16**

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

northeast side of the chapel is the main door with a similar veranda that runs from the steeple end to the west transept.

The main entrance at the northeast corner has a small gable roof. The gable end has fish-scale and saw-tooth shingle facing. The roof is supported by large square chamfer-edged columns. Large scroll carved brackets with holes pierced in them support the lower ends of the eaves. The porch decking is tongue and groove wood, painted grey. The simple porch balustrade is of square balusters. In addition to the main entrance there is a second entrance at the east corner of the south façade at the base of the tower. This door is also covered with a gabled hood supported with large brackets. There are also doors leading from the chancel area at the west end. They have small shed extensions of the gable roof with large supporting brackets. The doors of the chapel are typically double doors horizontal inset panels and square multicolored stained-glass lights at the top.

Each end of the cross has a similar rectangular, stained glass window that is mullioned into tall, narrow sections with smaller sections at the top. On the east facade the larger stained glass window is flanked by compatible but smaller stained glass windows. The stained glass windows are in an alternating narrow and long rectangle pattern with rectangular perimeter bands in a mottled green glass. Some round elements occur at the small, square shaped windows above the tall lower windows.

The interior of the Chapel is largely intact. The nave has two rows of columns, four in each row, supporting the gable roof. An elliptical arched, wood truss system spans crosswise and longitudinally between columns. The clustered columns have trim at the top of the base and at the capitals. The capitals have acanthus leaf carving and molded elements. The interior of the building has resilient tile flooring. The central section of the ceiling is covered with white perforated acoustical tile. The rest of the ceiling is a painted textured plaster. Three stained glass windows appear at the chancel end of the chapel depicting Mary, St. John, and Christ. Most of the stained glass windows have dedicatory insets in memory of families and individuals who donated to the chapel. The altar is composed of Gothic inset panel elements lined at the edges in gold. A large pipe organ is at the left side of the chancel area. It has a paneled wood base and pipes surrounding the swell chamber. All interior woodwork and door trim seem to be original. The oak pews are finished in a honey tone. Most of the doors, other than the entrance doors, have horizontal panels, and hardware, knobs, and steeple hinges seem original. Lighting fixtures of inverted urn shape are located at the engaged columns at the walls. Along the walls are plaster casts of the stations of the cross.

Building 14 Catholic Chaplain's Quarters**1909****Contributing**

Designed by architect John Moller, Building 14 is an irregularly shaped frame building with Colonial Revival style features that faces east towards a small drive. On the north side of the building is a small narrow one-story addition. The finished floor level of the addition is a few feet below the first floor. On the south facade is a rectangular projection at the southwest corner that has its first floor corners set at a diagonal. The two-story house has a full basement, with rough face cast, concrete block walls. The walls are sided with painted white clapboard. Building 14 has a steep hipped roof with a large gable over the asymmetrical front wing. It is covered in composition shingles. On the west side, towards the north, is a tall narrow rectangular red brick chimney with corbelling at the top. The addition on the north has a sloped seamed metal shed roof.

The main entrance door is on the left of the front wing. Enclosing the front wing is a small, screened porch. Surrounding the porch foundation are white lattice panels. A low, hip roof to the right is supported by white wood columns. A small gabled overhang at the left is above the screen door. Behind the screen porch is the wood entrance door, which has one pane of glass at its upper section and a single pane glass transom above the

NORTHWESTERN BRANCH, NHDVS**Page 17**

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

door. The rear entrance, a white wood door with one small pane of glass covered by a dark framed, wood screen door, is on the west side.

There is a two-light window on the right side of the main entrance. Centered above the porch in the middle of the front wing is a double-hung window. On either side is an oval window covered with fancy iron grille bars. At the attic level of the gable is a small double-hung window and exposed vertical framing filled in with clapboard. The rectangular projection on the southwest corner has double hung windows at the diagonal sections. At the flat section, facing south, are three small vertical windows about 6' above the floor level inside. Simple scroll brackets with lightbulb shaped pendants are at the corners where the second floor overhangs at the first floor level to fill out the corner. The irregularly spaced fenestration around the remainder of the house is comprised of double hung windows with single panes in each moveable section. On the interior, the second floor bedrooms are served by two separate staircases, as originally designed. The intent was to limit interaction between the chaplain and the housekeeper. A door linking the two bedroom areas has since been installed. Trim is plain, and interior doors are four panel. Building 14 continues to be used for housing.

Building 16 Protestant Chaplain's Quarters**1901****Contributing**

Building 16 is a two-story frame building that incorporates aspects of the Queen Anne style in its asymmetrical massing and details. It has a brick foundation enclosing a full basement, is sided in clapboard with cornerboards, is painted white, and has a gabled roof on an east-west axis. Lower cross-gables are on the north and south, and include small brackets. The front cross gable has a blank verge board. A gabled extension on the west has a concrete block foundation. The roof is covered in composition shingle. There is one interior brick chimney at the north gable end, and an exterior chimney at the south end. Windows are one-over-one with heavy wood drip molds, and vary in size.

The main entry is on the east façade, accessed via a shed roof porch that spans two-thirds of the wall, and is supported by four equally-spaced square columns. A low wood balustrade encloses the porch. The original entry was recessed into the north corner of the east wall, but is now enclosed with vertical boards. A second entry on the rear (west) side is located within a one-story gabled addition at the northwest corner. There is also an exterior basement access on the north side, via a hatch door. On the interior, original elements include a stairway with turned balusters and square newel posts with finials. A fireplace in the living room is faced with tile and has a wood mantle. Floors are carpeted and walls are plaster.

Building 17 Secretary and Surgeon's Quarters**1887****Contributing**

Attributed to architect Henry C. Koch due to a similarity in style between this building and the nearby Shingle Style Chapel (Building 12), Building 17 is a frame, two and one-half story duplex building in the Shingle Style that sits on a pitch-faced random course stone foundation. It is dominated by a two-story gabled roof set on an east-west axis. Lower cross gables are located off-center on the north and south sides. The first two floors of the cross gables have five sides, while the upper stories are square. At the transition between second and third story are decorative brackets with pendants above corner windows. The roof is covered in composition shingle. There are three internal brick chimneys with decorative corbelling, and a very large exterior chimney at the east. Windows are typically three-over-one in various sizes, the largest windows at the first floor, and reducing in size by floor. The siding is clapboards with shingles in the upper gable ends, all painted white. At the top of the first floor the siding flares slightly. Another flare occurs at the second level, and is accented by a large belt course. The same detail appears in the upper gable ends.

NORTHWESTERN BRANCH, NHDVS**Page 18**

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

On the south side there is a full-width front porch with a sloped pitch. It is supported by six square columns with chamfered corners and ornamental capitals with brackets. Decorative scalloped edging is applied to the upper portion of the porch roof between columns, while there is a heavy wood baluster below. The entrance door is located at the southeast corner. The north side's entrance is located at the northeast corner, within a one-story porch with a sloped pitch. The roof is supported by square columns with chamfered corners and simple capitals with brackets. There is a wood baluster on this porch, as well.

The building's two units have virtually identically interiors that face away from each other. The main stairs and rear stairs off the kitchen are set side-by-side in the units. Most doors have transoms and original hardware. The north unit has a fireplace with decorative tile facing and hearth. The DVA undertook renovations to the interior in 2004 and 2005 for use as a living space for homeless veterans.

Building 18 Quarters**1916****Contributing**

Building 18 is a three story frame duplex in the Colonial Revival style, oriented with the main facade to the southwest. Each duplex unit is a mirror image of the other and there is no visible division on the exterior. The walls are sided in clapboard and the building has a gabled, dark gray shingle roof. The gable is broken by a shed dormer on the southwest side that is shared by both units. Each unit has a small brick chimney near the center of the building. The basement foundation wall is cement block.

Each unit is entered via an outside screened corner porch with a hipped roof. The porches stretch halfway across each unit and for two bays around the sides. The porch columns are square posts without any decoration. The bottom third of the screening is white clapboard. A lattice covers the porch foundations. Beyond are the wood and glass, single-entry doors. Two open porch decks lead to the rear doors. Toward the center of the front facade, each unit has a large one-over-one light double-hung window. Above these windows and above the front doors are smaller double-hung windows with one-over-one lights. There are two casement windows for each unit located in the central shed dormer. The building's gable ends have randomly spaced windows of various sizes. On the interior, the units share oak woodwork, two-panel doors, and picture railing. Walls and ceilings are plastered. Each unit has a fireplace set within a niche on the side of the main stairway. The building continues to be used as housing.

Building 19 Quarters**1921****Contributing**

Building 19 is a two story, frame duplex in the Colonial Revival style, oriented to the southwest. It has a poured concrete foundation and is sided with clapboard and corner boards. It has an asphalt shingle-covered, truncated hipped roof with exposed rafter tails and small semi-circular dormers. There is a full-width screened porch on the southwest façade, partitioned down the center. Most of the porch is hipped with exposed rafter tails, but above the central section it is flat. The porch is supported by large square white columns with applied molding; at the corners the columns are grouped in threes. The front doors are wood with glass panes. Windows are typically six-over-six double hung, although those flanking each entry door on the first floor are tripartite windows consisting of wide, multi-light double-hung windows flanked by narrower double-hung windows. On the second floor of the front façade, is a set of narrow, four-over-four light sash windows. On the interior, the units share carpeted floors and plastered walls covered with wallpaper. The main stairway in each unit is open, and each has a fireplace with brick surround and flanking columns, and a reddish brown tile hearth. Columns are on each side of the dining room entry. The dining rooms have a built-in cabinet. Building 19 continues to be used for housing.

NORTHWESTERN BRANCH, NHDVS**Page 19**

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

Building 20 Quartermaster's Storehouse**1896; 1938 addition Contributing**

Architect Henry C. Koch is attributed with designing the original portion of this Cream City brick, utilitarian building. The attribution is based on a reference to a project for "a building at the National Home," in an Inland Architect listing of Henry C. Koch's projects for 1895. Based on this date, the Headquarters building, the Quartermaster's Storehouse or the Power Plant might be attributed to Koch. Given their importance to the operation of the Home, it is likely that Koch would have identified the Headquarters building or the Power Plant by name if he had been architect. This suggests that the 1895 Koch project was the Storehouse.⁶ A railroad spur runs along the south side of the building, approximately 50' away. A second section to the east was added in 1938. It is a multipurpose warehouse, garage and maintenance-shop building. The building is actually two rectangular buildings connected by a narrow passage. The western and older section has a gambrel roof; the addition has a flat roof. The ground level on the south side is at the second story level.

The western section is three and one-half stories with basement and a one-half story attic. Windows are typically four-over-four sash with segmental brick arches and stone sills. It is constructed of Cream City brick laid in common bond with no headers. On the north end of the west wall, at the lowest level, are three wood paneled overhead garage doors with one or two rows of windowpanes. On the south end of this wall at the same level is a metal and glass personnel door covered with a fixed metal awning. Farther to the south are three windows and a window opening with a louver. The upper floors each have eight symmetrically placed windows. There are two attic windows. The more elaborate south wall has bays separated by attached brick pilasters. Between each pilaster is a single double-hung window; some have been boarded over, others replaced with glass blocks. Centered on this side, a pilaster extends up to a gabled wall dormer. The dormer has two single windows. There is one concrete loading dock on the south side. The north wall design is similar to the south wall except that there are eight overhead panel doors at the basement level. The eaves of the western section have a very simple cornice with an ogee molding at the edge. A multi-toned brick chimney rises above the roof slightly off center to the south. The interior floors are maple.

The three-story east section is also of Cream City brick that is a slightly different color than the west section. As with the original section, the sloping site creates a four-story building on the north side. Windows are six-over-six sash. The roof is flat with a parapet and stone coping. Above the second level is a cut-stone, horizontal belt course that encircles the building. There is a concrete loading dock at the southwest corner of the south wall. On the north wall is a low concrete loading dock with a pair of doors. The interior floors are concrete.

Building 37 Officers Quarters**1902****Contributing**

Building 37 is a frame, two and one-half story single family house that incorporates aspects of the Colonial Revival style in its symmetry and window type. It has a pitch-faced concrete block foundation, and clapboard siding with cornerboards. The gable roof is aligned on a north-south axis, and is covered in asphalt shingle. A cross-dormer on the west façade has an enclosed eave return, creating a classically-inspired pediment. This is also found on the north and south gable ends. The front (west entrance) is located beneath a central, one-story porch with a shed roof and wood balustrade. The front door is wood and glass. A secondary entrance on the east side is within a two-story enclosure with a shed roof. There are two tall chimneys with concrete caps that have been plastered over, and a third brick chimney at the rear.

⁶ Halverson, et. al., 8/56.

NORTHWESTERN BRANCH, NHDVS**Page 20**

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

There are a variety of window types on Building 37. On the first floor, windows are six-over-six double hung, with the exception of windows flanking the front entrance. These are larger, one-over-one double hung with multi-light transoms. The second floor windows on the south and west sides are three-over-one double hung. The remaining windows are two-over-one. Building 37 continues to be used for housing.

Building 39 Governors Quarters**1867-68****Contributing**

Building 39, attributed to architect Edward Townsend Mix, is an asymmetrical, two and one-half story building finished in a variety of materials. It exhibits many of the characteristics of the Italianate style with some Queen Anne modifications. The first two floors are constructed of Cream City brick; above a strong second floor cornice is a cross-gabled half floor sided in fish-scale and convex-edged shingles with alternating bands of horizontal butt shingles. The siding is painted white with cream trim. The main gable is set on an east-west axis with lower north and south gables to the east. An hexagonal turret is located at the northwest corner, above a two-story corner bay. It has an hexagonal tent roof. The gabled roofs are covered by composition shingles. South of this corner bay is another smaller, two-story, three-sided bay that ends with a flat entablature. On the east side is a five-sided brick bay. There are two centrally located, tall brick chimneys and an external, cross-shaped brick chimney on the east wall.

Windows are a variety of styles, although several are one-over-one double hung in a variety of sizes, with segmental arches and there are continuous stone sills. The center windows on the northwest corner bay are fixed, single pane windows with large, half-elliptical transoms. The two-story bay on the west side has a second story stained glass window. Within the west gable end, the windows are four-over-four double hung. Centered at the second floor level of the bay is a large single pane window that has a leaded glass transom with abstract floral motifs set within a half-round center. Some sections of the glass are cranberry and amber-colored. On the north wall on the second floor are two elliptical, four-over-four double hung windows with transoms. Near the peak of the gable on the north side is a round window encircled by a projecting brick course.

The main entry is through a large, enclosed and winterized one-story porch on the south wall. Square wood columns with spanning arches create bays in addition to supporting the flat roof deck that is topped with white railings. The front (west) side of the porch has two bays, and it extends east three bays. Each bay has three hinged windows topped by fixed transoms. These were originally screened openings. The entrance door is wood and glass. There are carriage lantern lights flanking the door. A rear (east) entrance is enclosed by a one-story, brick enclosure with a hipped roof. There is a paneled garage door at the basement level in the rear (east) side of the building.

The Governors Quarters began as a smaller building with a tower that had a mansard roof covered with contrasting colored slate or shingles, similar to the roof of the Main Building. The original form was virtually identical to Mix's own 1866 house on Wavery Place in Milwaukee (demolished). By 1916 the house was remodeled with the addition of the third floor and the replacement of the mansard roof with a hexagonal tent tower.⁷ On the interior, outstanding details include a walnut newel post on the main stairway, and fireplaces in the living room, dining room and study have marble surrounds and hearths. Most of the hardware is original, including some porcelain knobs. Building 39 serves as the Medical Center Director's Quarters.

⁷ Ibid., 8/54.

NORTHWESTERN BRANCH, NHDVS**Page 21**

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

Building 41 Ward Memorial Hall**1881; 1895-97****Contributing**

Building 41 is Ward Memorial Hall, designed by architect Henry C. Koch in Victorian Gothic style. The two-and-one-half story theater is constructed of brick over a partial basement of pitch-faced stone, but no accessible attic. The Cream City brick walls have decorative belt courses and inset diamond motifs of red brick. The building is basically a rectangular shape with a steeply gabled roof on a north-south axis. The main entrance faces south. Steep, polygonal hipped cross gables are located at the north and south ends. The cross gables near the south end are for stairs. Dentil-type corbelling in brick is located under the eaves of the two cross gables at this south (front) end. There is also an irregular one-story wing on the west toward the rear of the building used for backstage dressing facilities. The roof is covered in green composition shingle. All of the gables have decorative, carved stone parapets with finials at the tip. The west wing of the building has a hipped roof leading to a large, corbelled chimney with inset and protruding brick patterns. At the peak of the main roof are two circular metal ventilating units. Early photographs show very tall chimneys, but they have since been removed. Metal fire escapes are located at the balcony level on the east and west sides of the building.

A one-story veranda wraps around the front, east and north sides of the theater. It conforms to the many planes of the facade. It is constructed entirely of wood, and has a hipped roof. The roof is supported by square, decorative columns with chamfered and flared capitals containing simplified leaf patterns. They are spanned by fancy open lattice railing. The veranda apron is a fine lattice paneling. The wide main entrance opening is crowned with a clipped gable roof in the veranda. The main steps are very wide, and the two side openings on the east and west have a small open gable with ornate bracing. There are three main entrance doors sheltered by the veranda. They are double, paneled and set within brick arches. Above them are transoms. Over the entrance and above the veranda roof is a row of three tall, two-over-two windows, then an oblong stone panel carved with the words "WARD MEMORIAL HALL" in raised lettering. Above this is a Palladian style window with stained glass in the upper sections, and within the gabled peak is a checkered brick pattern.

Windows are a variety of styles. On the main portion of the building, first floor, some openings have six-over-six double hung, interspersed with wood panel doors. On the second floor they are also tall, evenly spaced six-over-six double hung topped with elliptical, leaded glass windows mullioned in a diamond pattern. They have elliptical brick arches. The windows have red tile inset in decorative motifs at the window heads, with radiating voussoirs. On the cross-gables at the south end, second floor, there are single bull's eyes windows with decorative, surrounding red brick.

There is also a large, painted glass window in the rear cross-gable facing east, depicting General Grant on horseback. This window was donated to the Northwest Branch by the Grand Army of the Republic at its annual encampment in 1887. The window was installed in an enlarged window opening on the second floor. In 1897 the theater was enlarged through the removal of the floor between the original first and second floors, and the wrapping of the original theater balcony around the side of the theater space. The result of this was the blocking off of the Grant window, which can only be seen on the interior in a very shallow space between the theater and the exterior walls. In the 1930s a projection theater system was added to the hall so that movies could be shown.⁸

The interior retains many original elements, including its stage, seating, wall treatment and a dressing room papered with posters from theatrical productions. It is frescoed in the New Renaissance style, characterized by round arches and symmetrically placed windows. The ceiling was originally divided into panels, and decorated with peacock plumage. The theater has a stepped floor to the orchestra level and a steeply stepped balcony.

⁸ Ibid., 8/56.

NORTHWESTERN BRANCH, NHDVS

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

Page 22

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

Most hardware is original; seats are plywood on cast iron. A Soldiers Home emblem was painted at the top of the proscenium by WPA workers in the 1930s. Ward Memorial Hall was placed on the National Register of Historic Places in 1984. It is currently vacant.

Building 45 Power Plant**1895****Contributing**

Building 45 is in the shape of a "T" with the base slightly off center. The west "L"-shaped portion is three stories high. The foundation is poured concrete with a rough-cut stone band where the foundation meets the wall. The bearing walls are constructed of Cream City brick. The walls have engaged brick columns that form bays. Two bays have double, barn wood doors in place of the pair of windows.

There are two window openings per bay along the sides of the building. These are tall four-over-four light, double-hung windows with elliptical brick arches and stone sills. At the second level on the ends of the building are shorter but similar windows that are one per bay. Above the windows at the sides are recessed brick panels. On the north facade all the window openings are boarded up. The three-story section at the west has smaller pairs of windows at three levels between engaged brick pilasters that form three large panels on the south facade. Many of the windows are boarded up. The smaller windows located around the top are fitted with six panes, and paired.

The easterly section has a gabled roof with a few gabled cupolas that have side louvers. The west wing has a small, fourth-floor, penthouse machine room. The roofing is green composition shingles. One chimney stack is concrete and the other chimney to the west is brick. On the interior, the southern section has a brick floor, the rest are concrete. A steel truss roof system supports a wood deck roof. The upper floor contains a 20' diameter turbine and switchboard. The west wing contains coal hoppers. The 1922 smokestack was demolished in the mid 1990s. The building is currently vacant.

Buildings 49 Quarters**1908-09****Contributing**

Buildings 49 and 50 are virtually identical frame two and one-half story duplexes that have elements of the Colonial Revival style in the gambrel roofs and clapboard siding with corner boards. The roof is covered with composition shingle and the eave trim is crown molding. There is a central square brick chimney with a concrete cap. The walls are painted white. The foundations are brick. A porch with a hipped roof supported by turned columns extends the full width of the front, east side, on both buildings. Wood balustrades extend between the columns. The porch is divided in half by a partition of vertical boards and latticework. Screened entry doors are located at the outside edges of this south façade. The entry doors are wood with multipane windows. At the center of the rear of each building (west side), is a shed roof extension containing two paneled doors with screen doors.

All the windows are tall, double hung, one-over-one light sash. Double windows are located on both units on the first level between the front doors. A single window is centered over each duplex at the front on the second floor. Near the center at the attic level are two small square windows that have been filled with wood panels. Window treatments on the sides and rear are similar but the placement is asymmetrical. All the windows are covered with aluminum storms. On the interior there is a semi-open staircase off the dining room that has turned balusters and a double newel post. Building 49 continues to be used as a residence.

Building 50 Quarters**1908-09****Contributing**

See the description for Building 49. Building 50 continues to be used as a residence.

NORTHWESTERN BRANCH, NHDVS**Page 23**

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

Building 57 Cemetery Reception House**1900****Contributing**

Building 57 is situated at a turn in a road on the northwest edge of the Wood National Cemetery. It is a small one room, one story, octagonal-shaped building. The base of the structure is poured concrete. The exterior walls are composed of cast concrete block laid in regular courses. Each rough faced block has an incised line dividing the block into a larger rectangle and a long narrow rectangle. These are laid with narrow rectangle on the bottom and then, alternately, at the top of the block. The north side has a white, flush wood door with a large, modern aluminum kickplate. Three sides each have one screened double-hung window. The windows have a black painted sash with a single light above and below and flat white painted trim. They are covered on the inside with plywood. The windowsills and the lintels are poured concrete.

The structure is covered with a tent roof. The roof is seamed metal, which is painted green and has a ball finial at the top. The cornice at the edge of the roof has a molding underneath where it hits the concrete block. A small brick chimney that has been painted green protrudes above the roof on the windowless southeast side.

Building 62 Quarters**1922****Contributing**

Building 62 is very similar to Building 19. It is a two-story duplex in Colonial Revival style. It has a poured concrete foundation and is sided with clapboard and corner boards. It has an asphalt shingle covered truncated hipped roof with exposed rafter tails and small semi-circular dormers. An interior chimney is constructed of dark buff multi-colored brick. There is a full-width front porch on the southwest façade, partitioned down the center. Most of the porch is hipped with exposed rafter tails, but above the central section it is flat. The porch is supported by large square white columns with applied molding; at the corners the columns are placed in threes. The entrance doors on the front of the building have two horizontal panels at the bottom and a nine-light glass section at the top. Windows are typically six-over-six double hung, although those flanking each entry door on the first floor are tripartite windows consisting of wide, multi-light double-hung windows flanked by narrower double-hung windows. On the second floor of the front façade, is a set of narrow, four-over-four sash windows. The front also has a six-over-six double-hung window on a very shallow bay. The rear of this building has various sized windows either single or in groups of two or three. There are two staircases on the interior, a main staircase off the living room, and a second, narrow and winding staircase leading from the kitchen. There is a fireplace set into a niche next to the main staircase. Most rooms have picture railing about 1' from the ceiling. Ceilings and walls are plastered. The building continues to be used as a residence.

Building 43 Hospital Annex**1933****Noncontributing**

Building 43 is a three-story Colonial Revival building with half of the basement above grade. The foundation level is random coursed split-face stone. It is terra-cotta colored brick with a stone water table and a stone belt course at mid-window height. Windows are double-hung aluminum set within shallow recesses in groups of two or three. They have grey panel transoms. On the northwest wing, the windows are also double hung modern aluminum sash, some of which are in pairs. Some windows have transoms with solid panels. The top of the parapet has a stone trim. There is a one-story wing extending to the northwest of the building that has a concrete foundation and a flat roof.

The main, raised entrance of this building is centrally placed in the southeast wall. A projecting flat roofed pavilion surrounds the main entrance. Between the massive square columns supporting the roof are solid stone balustrade with cut stone topping. The pavilion floor is poured concrete. The ceiling is textured plaster. A pendant light fixture in a lantern shape hangs above the entrance door. The door is surrounded by simple stone

NORTHWESTERN BRANCH, NHDVS

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

Page 24

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

trim flush with the face of the brick work at the sides and alternating brick and stone coursing at the head. The door frame is encircled by a decorative stone band with stylized floral work at the base. Above the entrance door is a low arch with a keystone. The entrance doors are frameless glass. A sign above the pavilion at the parapet says “Hospital Annex” in metal, block type letters. Above the pavilion at the east wall of the building is a projecting section that has a gabled parapet with carved stone coping at the top. There is a pressed metal ceiling at the entrance and decorative metal cornice work at the sides of the ceiling. The building continues to serve as a domiciliary and hospital.

Building 60 Garage

1938

Noncontributing

This building is a two-door garage associated with Building 39. It has a concrete foundation, structural clay tile walls, and roll roofing on the shed roof. The garage was constructed after the period of significance.

Building 64 Garage

1938

Noncontributing

This six-car, shed roof garage is located behind Buildings 18, 19, and 62. It has structural clay tiles walls, a shed roof, and roll roofing. The garage was constructed after the period of significance.

Building 73 Garage

1935

Noncontributing

Building 73 is a one-car, shed-roof garage located behind building 16. The walls are structural clay tile and the roof is roll roofing. The garage was constructed after the period of significance.

Building 84 Garage

1938

Noncontributing

Of the two Building 84 garages on the property, the one located closest to Buildings 49 and 50 is within the NHL boundary. It is a one-story, structural clay tile with shed roof covered in roll roofing. The non-contributing garage is sided in vinyl and has four stalls. The garage was constructed after the period of significance.

Building 93 Garage

1939

Noncontributing

Building 93 is a one-story, shed roof garage with structural clay tile walls and one stall. It is the garage for building 37. Building 93 was built after the period of significance.

Building 97 Paint Shop

1938

Noncontributing

Building 97 has Cream City brick exterior bearing walls and is covered with a flat roof. It is located north of Paint Shop Road directly east of Building No. 20. A parking area off of Workshop Road is to the north and Building No. T-107 is to the east. The paint shop was constructed after the period of significance.

Building 99 Garage

1941

Noncontributing

Building 99 is a five car garage located behind Building 20. It has structural clay tile walls and a shed roof covered in roll roofing. The garage was constructed after the period of significance.

Building 107 Grounds Maintenance

& Equipment Storage 1957

Noncontributing

NORTHWESTERN BRANCH, NHDVS**Page 25**

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

The Grounds Maintenance and Equipment Storage is a one-plus-mezzanine story, brick and concrete block building with a flat roof located north of Building 20. It was constructed after the period of significance.

Building 108 Shops, Engineering Storage 1957 Noncontributing

The Shops, Engineering Storage is a one-plus-mezzanine story, brick and concrete block building with flat roof located north of Building 20. It was constructed after the period of significance.

Building 112 Power Plant 1964 Noncontributing

The Power Plant is a steel frame building with some brick and metal siding. Built on an L-plan, it is three stories with a one-story section and houses mechanical equipment and smaller rooms for offices and storage. The Power Plant is south of Building 45. It was constructed after the period of significance.

Building T-105 Storage Shed 1947 Noncontributing

This Maintenance Group storage shed is a 20' by 50' Quonset Hut type structure built from corrugated steel. It was constructed and put in place after the period of significance.

Building T-106 Storage Shed 1947 Noncontributing

See the description for Building T-105.

Building, T-107 Storage Shed 1947 Noncontributing

See the description for Building T-105.

Building T-114 Storage Shed 1948 Noncontributing

The Maintenance Group storage shed is a Quonset Hut type structure built from corrugated steel. It was constructed and put in place after the period of significance.

STRUCTURES

Structure 34 Water Meter House Pit 1888 Contributing

The Water Meter House Pit is a rectangular plan, one-story reinforced concrete building.

(No Number) Railroad Grade 1882 Contributing

The only resource not owned by the Clement J. Zablocki Medical Center, the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul Railroad is a partially elevated grade (east end) and tracks that runs east to west through the historic district. The line is vegetated at the east and west ends within the district, while in the center of the district, there are few trees to block views to the north and south. There are two locations that allow vehicular access across the tracks—one is an underpass, the other is at grade. The underpass is located near the maintenance area and allows access to the north residential area. The road which passes through this location originally led to the farm buildings located to the north (that farmland is no longer within the VA boundaries). It probably dates to

NORTHWESTERN BRANCH, NHDVS**Page 26**

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

the creation of the rail line, and has pitched face stone retaining walls. At this location the railroad grade is built up roughly 10 feet above grade. As the tracks progress west, they are incorporated into the topography so that there is an at-grade crossing that allows General Mitchell Boulevard to pass to the north from the utility area to the administrative-recreation area.

Structure B Pavilion**1986****Noncontributing**

This open-air pavilion with fireplace and picnic tables is located near Lake Wheeler. It was constructed by the VA Architectural Unit after the period of significance.

Structure E Cemetery Committal Shelter**1989****Noncontributing**

The Committal Shelter is located in the northern portion of the cemetery, west of Building 6. It was constructed by the Cemetery Service after the period of significance.

SITES**Landscape/Road System****1867****Contributing**

The historic core landscape reflects the Picturesque style popular in the nineteenth century. The landscape at the Northwestern Branch retains many of the key features developed during the period of significance that make this a very important resource within the NHL district. The Picturesque style utilizes the existing topography, and incorporated curving paths and carriageways to provide both means of transportation and to control views as the traveler moved through the landscape. The curving paths and roads continue to illustrate the original design and connect the various building clusters. Interspersed in the landscape are open expanses of lawns framed by vegetation, while other locations are enclosed or screened by trees. Also included within such a designed landscape are areas of repose, all intended to create a relaxing, tranquil environment for the traveler. The most important vista is that created by the placement of the Main Building on the crest of a bluff-- the highest point on the grounds. From the Main Building can be seen the other building groups at the Home, and the cemetery to the west.

The road system emphasizes the importance of the Main Building, particularly the alignment of the main road, historically named Central Avenue and now known as General Mitchell Boulevard. Historically and today, General Mitchell Boulevard begins at the southeast corner of the property at the intersection with National Avenue—originally called Mukwanago Road—and proceeds northward along a curving route. Historically this portion of the road was tree-lined, providing a shady canopy. Today it is bounded by a large parking lot (not included within the historic boundary). General Mitchell Boulevard climbs through gently rolling terrain up towards the Main Building to the heart of the district. Off of this road, the secondary roads of Red Arrow Road, Baron Circle, Wood Avenue, and Chrysler Road follow the hillsides to access residential buildings, while Lake Wheeler Drive and Hines Boulevard allow views to Lake Wheeler. General Mitchell Boulevard crosses the railroad grade and divides into a circle in front (east) of the Main Building. Historically at this location the road also encircled a second lake, Lake Hincks, which was infilled by the turn of the century to accommodate a maintenance area. South and around the Main Building is General Wolcott Boulevard, which evolved out of smaller access roads as this area developed before the turn of the century. General Mitchell Boulevard exited to the northwest, onto West Bluemound Road, (originally known as Spring Road). Another road branched off to the northeast to the Northwest Branch farm and a third exit. The farm area and northeast entrance were in a portion of land ceded to the county in 1949 and now occupied by the Miller Park stadium. Gatehouses stood at

NORTHWESTERN BRANCH, NHDVS**Page 27**

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

all three access points. At the northwest corner of the Home, the Wood National Cemetery included a shaded Spring Lake (later known as Lake Huston), which was infilled with the creation of Interstate 94. Further reflecting the Picturesque Style, large expanses of open space remain on the east and west sides of the district, in the residential areas and in the Wood National Cemetery.

Two streetcar lines served the Home, operated by the Milwaukee Electric Railway. One followed National Avenue, and provided access to the south side of the property. A second, elevated line, north of the Home, extended south following the general line of General Mitchell Avenue, and paralleled the east side of Calvary Cemetery. The line then turned west where the company built a second depot at the northwest corner of the Home, directly accessing the Home's cemetery, near Spring Lake.⁹ The right of way is still distinguishable between the VA and the Calvary cemeteries.

Northeast of the Main Building, the 500' x 300' Soldiers' Home Reef is a 70' high fossil reef that grew approximately 400 million years ago. While this natural feature is counted as a separate site within the National Register district, it is included in the NHL historic district as a feature of the greater designed landscape. It is also listed as a separate NHL property. Discovered in 1834, the feature forms a natural northeast boundary for the Home.

There have been changes to the Northwestern Branch landscape. The gatehouses are now gone, three of the original lakes filled in, and the fourth, Lake Wheeler, was reoriented in 1966 to make room for Building 111. The loss of land on the east edge of the property to Miller Park has removed some of the original landscape and interrupted the view shed. However, the landscape and road/path system in the historic core, strongly evoke the objectives of the NHDVS Board of Managers to provide members with beautiful surroundings as well as reflecting the development of the grounds during the Period of significance. Lake Wheeler was identified as a separate, non-contributing resource in the National Register nomination; it is not counted separately in the NHL nomination, and while modified, is important as a surviving water feature that contributes to an understanding of the goals of a Picturesque landscape design.

Wood National Cemetery**1871****Contributing**

Wood National Cemetery, designed by Thomas B. Van Horne, was dedicated May 22, 1871. The federal military cemetery encompasses 50.1 acres; however, only 41.1 acres are within the NHL boundary. The greater portion of the cemetery lies west of the main cluster of administrative-recreation cluster of buildings. The 36.1 acres west of the building group feature a central monument ("Building" 120) and straight rows of graves. This area, and 5 additional acres to the north, was designed following the Picturesque landscape style of the Home. The cemetery included curvilinear roads leading to a water feature known as Spring Lake (1867-1878). Van Horne may have been consciously contrasting the formal focus on the cemetery with a Picturesque landscape near the lake. A sense of serenity was emphasized by plantings of shade trees around the lake. A strong orthogonal cross road design was established after 1879, aligned along the primary compass directions. However, the curving roads around the lake remained and were extended. Approximately five additional acres of Wood National Cemetery is located across Interstate-94, northwest of the main cluster of buildings. The interstate divided the cemetery in 1962, and filled in Spring Lake; however, a pathway connects to the 5 acre portion of the cemetery, which continues to serve its original purpose and is therefore included in this nomination.

⁹ Elizabeth Corbett, *Out at the Soldiers' Home, A Memory Book*, (New York: D. Appleton-Century Company, Limited, 1941), 223; H. G. Claus, "Map of the Cemetery of the Northwestern Branch N.H.D.V.S., March 1903, From a Survey Under the Direction of Col. Cornelius Wheeler, Governor," Clement J. Zablocki Medical Center Archives.

NORTHWESTERN BRANCH, NHDVS**Page 28**

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

Wood National Cemetery is home to nearly 30,000 graves which are visible from nearly every building in the district. Each grave is numbered and bears the name of the veteran buried there, date of death and dates of military service. Other graves are those of members of the 54th Massachusetts Volunteer Infantry (the first federal African-American unit recruited in the North), as well as graves of U.S. Colored Troops from Wisconsin, and five Medal of Honor recipients: Ordinary Seaman James K. Duncan (Civil War); Private Milton Matthews (Civil War); Corporal Winthrop D. Putnam (Civil War); Private Lewis A. Rounds (Civil War); Boatswain's Mate Michael McCormick (Civil War). Section 8 contains the graves of employees and their family members. These graves are generally marked with private headstones, the largest being to General Kilbourn Knox, the sixth governor of the Home.

The Cemetery features eight cast iron plaques with verses of the poem "The Bivouac of the Dead," displayed on stone mounts and scattered throughout the cemetery. Other cemetery features include a tablet presented to the National Home in 1881; a tablet featuring the Gettysburg Address, and set in a stone frame, and a "Memorial Day Order" cast-iron tablet set on a boulder. There is a cast iron "American War Mothers Memorial Avenue" tablet in burial section 38A. In 1900, a reception house (Building 57) was constructed at the cemetery and in 1903 the Soldiers and Sailors Monument (Building 120) erected. The branch added a comfort station to the cemetery in 1928, located south of Building 57 (now gone). In 1937, the cemetery was renamed Wood Cemetery, in honor of General George Wood.

An additional nine acres of cemetery, featuring some six thousand newer, flat granite headstone grave markers, rests south of the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul Railroad line, north of N. Washington Drive. This newer section, including graves of soldiers in World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War, is outside the boundaries of this nomination due to the date of its establishment.

Resource 53 Powder Magazine Ruins**1881****Contributing**

The ruins of the original powder magazine have been designated Building 53 by the DVA. The small structure, built on a square plan, has cut stone walls. It was used to store gunpowder. The roof is gone, the inside of the building is filled with rubble, and the structure is becoming overgrown. The ruins are located in the northeast section of the district. Building 53 was listed as non-contributing in the National Register nomination due to a loss of architectural integrity; it is listed as a contributing "site" in the NHL nomination as it assists in understanding the daily operations at the Home.

OBJECTS**Resource 120 Soldiers & Sailors Monument****1903****Contributing**

Located in the Wood National Cemetery, the DVA has assigned this monument building number 120. The Soldiers and Sailors Monument consists of a pedestal form supporting a three-part shaft made of New England Granite. At the top there is a figure of a Civil War soldier at parade rest. The monument stands 65 feet tall and weighs eighty-five tons. Two cannonball pyramids made of fourteen cannonballs each are located within the cut corners of the base, on opposite sides. The four faces of the pedestal feature engraved designs including an anchor, crossed sabers and crossed cannons. The primary inscriptions are on opposite sides and read, "Erected by the Soldiers and Sailors Monument Association N.W.B.N.H for D.V.S. Jan. 1903," and "In Memory of Comrades Buried in this Home Cemetery."

NORTHWESTERN BRANCH, NHDVS**Page 29**

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

(No Number) Fountain**1870/1934****Contributing**

The oldest landscape furnishing on the grounds, the Fountain is located on General Mitchell Avenue, directly across from the east entrance to Building 2, the Main Building. It is composed of an octagonal basin from the center of which rises a pedestal and elevated bowl. About the pedestal base are female figures; another solitary female figure is set within the bowl, lifting an urn over her head. Water was pumped from the urn to flow into the bowl. The basin wall was changed at some point in its history. Originally the corners of the octagon were elaborated with piers, the centers of which featured a reticulated stone pattern. Flower urns surmounted these piers. In 1934 the piers were removed and a low wall laid up with random rubble courses built around the exterior. A second low wall of identical construction was built about six feet to the outside. The fountain is similar in style to the 19th century fountain created by Caspar Hennecke Company of Milwaukee for the original Milwaukee County Courthouse.

(No Number) The Volunteer Monument**1941****Noncontributing**

The Volunteer Monument is a memorial to Spanish-American War veterans, Department of Wisconsin Camps and its Auxiliaries. It is located facing Building 43, near Lake Wheeler. The bronze statue depicts a soldier holding a rifle and is set on a square stone base. Inset in the base is a metal plaque stating "the Volunteer, 98." The inscription reads, "He stood at the curb reflecting as the boys were marching by, he heard the drums and saw the flag and a gleam was in his eye... Twas the universal spirit with the boys of 98." It was dedicated after the Period of significance.

ARCHEOLOGICAL RESOURCES

The 2005 National Register nomination notes that test excavations have been undertaken at the Northwestern Branch in various locations on the grounds, some performed in conjunction with the development of the Medical Center's 1992 *Historic Preservation Plan*. Historic artifacts related to the Home's presence have been identified, along with prehistoric artifacts. Further excavations at three identified prehistoric and historic sites (Sites A, B, and C) including a potential burial mound (northwest of the Silurian Reef), may uncover additional prehistoric artifacts. These sites are not included within the NHL resource count, as they are not associated with the NHL period of significance.

NORTHWESTERN BRANCH, NATIONAL HOME FOR DISABLED SOLDIERS**Page 30**

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

Nationally: X Statewide: Locally: Applicable National
Register Criteria:A X B C X D Criteria Considerations
(Exceptions):A X B C D X E F G

NHL Criteria:

1

NHL Theme(s):

5

Areas of Significance:

Politics/Government; Health/Medicine; Architecture; Landscape Architecture; Social History

Period(s) of Significance:

1866-1930

Significant Dates:

1866

Significant Person(s):

N/A

Cultural Affiliation:

N/A

Architect/Builder:

Edward Townsend Mix, architect
Henry C. Koch, architect
Thomas Budd Van Horne, landscape architect

Historic Contexts:

National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers

NORTHWESTERN BRANCH, NHDVS

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

Page 31

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

State Significance of Property, and Justify Criteria, Criteria Considerations, and Areas and Periods of Significance Noted Above.

A full discussion of the national significance of the National Homes for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers (NHDVS) is provided in the associated document, "National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers National Historic Landmark Context Study." The study establishes the history and evolution of the property type, and provides a preliminary assessment of the National Historic Landmark (NHL) eligibility of the eleven NHDVS branches established across the country between 1865 and 1930. The study determined which of the eleven retained the highest integrity and represented most fully the development of veterans benefits in the United States, the commitment of the Board of Managers to honoring disabled veterans, and the original architectural and landscape designs.

The NHDVS represented a policy of veterans' benefits that directly influenced the development of a national system for veteran health care in the United States. The NHDVS was a notable departure from the previous focus on care for professional soldiers and officially set forth the concern and commitment of the federal government for the well-being of the civilian soldier. The history of the NHDVS can be organized into five phases. Phase One, 1865-1870, includes the formation of the NHDVS by Congress, the organization of the Board of Managers, and the establishment of the first four branches. During Phase Two, 1871-1883, the institution's operations continued to develop and growth occurred at the individual sites. During Phase Three, 1884-1900, the system expanded to include four new branches. The expansions during Phases Two and Three were the result of broadened membership requirements which opened the NHDVS doors to increasing numbers of members. In Phase Four, 1900-1917, two new branches were created and the system increasingly focused attention on the medical needs of veterans. Phase Five, 1918-1930, saw the impact of World War I, the establishment of the final NHDVS branch, and the incorporation of the NHDVS into the newly created Veterans Administration.

The NHDVS branches were designed for a variety of reasons and functions over a broad period of time, and evolved in response to specific changes in NHDVS policies. Such policies are physically reflected in the campuses. No one property has survived fully intact from one period, but some branches retain pivotal and important resources that are associated with specific periods. The Northwestern Branch NHDVS is one of four branches nominated for NHL designation. The period of significance for the Northwestern Branch is 1866 to 1930. It retains buildings from all phases of the NHDVS history from the origins of the system and its evolution into the twentieth century.

The Northwestern Branch of the NHDVS is nationally significant under NHL Criterion 1 as a property that is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to our past; and NHL Theme IV, shaping the political landscape: governmental institutions, under the area of Health/Medicine. The Northwestern Branch is an outstanding representation of the development of a national system of medical and residential benefits for disabled veterans. The NHDVS was the first national system to provide such benefits to volunteer soldiers and, as such, is a precursor to the modern system of veterans' benefits administered by the Department of Veterans Affairs. Established in 1866 and opened in 1867, the Northwestern Branch was one of three original NHDVS facilities, and it retains the oldest buildings in the system. It also retains a largely intact picturesque landscape. It is particularly significant in representing the beginning of the network of veterans' benefits that began growing rapidly after the Civil War, and became increasingly important in terms of medical and geriatric care after 1900. The Northwestern Branch was the first NHDVS branch to institute such innovations as employing professional female nurses, and providing separate quarters for elderly members, inspiring similar changes in the operations of other branches. The physical development at the Northwestern Branch also influenced the way in which subsequent branches were designed. The property also represents the goals of the NHDVS Board

NORTHWESTERN BRANCH, NHDVS**Page 32**

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

of Managers to create attractive, well-designed institutions that would provide a dignified home for disabled veterans.

The Northwestern Branch complements three other properties submitted for NHL consideration, under separate nominations, and representing distinct aspects of the NHDVS history:

- The Western Branch, in Leavenworth, Kansas, established in 1885 and opened in 1887. The Western Branch was the first to be established after an 1884 change in policy dramatically broadened the standards for admission (allowing veterans with non-service related disabilities to enter the institution), and created a demand for additional facilities. The first branch constructed west of the Mississippi River, it is significant for the great number of veterans living in western states and territories far removed from existing NHDVS branches. The Western Branch represents Phases Three through Five. The period of significance for the Western Branch is 1885-1930;
- The Mountain Branch, in Johnson City, Tennessee, was established in 1901 and opened in 1904. The Mountain Branch represents Phases Four and Five, a time of an increased attention to medical care. The Mountain Branch reflects the attendant changes to the NHDVS after Spanish American War veterans were granted admission to the homes, and after particular conditions to which veterans of that war were susceptible, particularly yellow fever and tuberculosis. The Board considered the location particularly suitable for tuberculosis patients due to its climate. The Mountain Branch's symmetrical plan and uniform architectural style represent a departure from earlier branches, many of which included a variety of architectural styles and grounds designed in a picturesque or romantic style. The period of significance for the Mountain Branch is 1901-1930;
- The Battle Mountain Sanitarium, in Hot Springs, South Dakota, established in 1902 and opened in 1907. Battle Mountain Sanitarium was the only NHDVS branch to be established as an independent medical facility, rather than a facility designed primarily as a residential institution. Battle Mountain Sanitarium utilized the waters from nearby mineral springs to treat musculoskeletal conditions; the high, dry atmosphere eased respiratory ills. The primary complex features a prominent administration center connected to an innovative hospital complex that placed wards in rectangular spokes. It outstandingly represents Phases Four and Five and the evolution of the NHDVS from a primarily residential system to one offering extensive medical services to veterans. The period of significance for Battle Mountain Sanitarium is 1902-1930.

The Northwestern Branch core is remarkably intact, with the loss of relatively few of the pivotal or important early resource types. It is an outstanding example of the branches developed by the NHDVS, exhibiting a high degree of integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. While some early structures are gone, new construction has generally not taken place on the sites of former buildings. Instead, post-1930 development and the modern buildings of the Clement J. Zablocki VA Medical Center are to the south, removed from the core NHDVS property by railroad tracks, a water channel, and the area's topography. The Northwestern Branch was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 2005 at a national level of significance for its associations with the broader history of the Department of Veterans Affairs. The period of significance for the 2005 nomination is broader than the period of significance for this NHL nomination.

Under NHL Exception 5, the Wood National Cemetery was created for the internment of veterans who died at the Northwestern Branch. The cemetery reflects the goals and objectives of the NHDVS system and its commitment to the care and respect of disabled veterans.

NORTHWESTERN BRANCH, NHDVS**Page 33**

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

Establishment, Design and Initial Construction

The Northwestern Branch of the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers, established in 1867, was one of the original three NHDVS facilities. Its location in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, was largely a result of the presence of George Walker, a Milwaukee resident on the reorganized Board of Managers, and the success of an influential group of Milwaukee women who dedicated their energies to assisting Civil War veterans. The development of the Northwestern Branch influenced the way in which other branches were designed, and several aspects of its provision of medical and geriatric services became models for other facilities. The Northwestern Branch also served as an important component of the growing city of Milwaukee, providing an early substitute for a public urban park system.

The location and even the existence of the Northwestern Branch can be attributed in large part to the efforts of Milwaukee women. In 1861, the Milwaukee Ladies Association formed as an auxiliary of the Chicago Branch of the United States Sanitary Commission. In 1862, the group split into East Side and West Side Societies, and in 1863, the East Side Society became the Wisconsin Soldiers' Aid Society and assumed the auxiliary status with the Sanitary Commission. The following year, the West Side group became the Wisconsin Soldiers' Home Society and focused on assisting veterans with meals and transitional housing in rented buildings located in downtown Milwaukee. In February of 1866, the group reported they had provided temporary lodging to more than sixteen thousand men and served more than seventy thousand meals in the previous thirteen-month period. As the war neared its end, the group began planning a permanent facility which would provide long term solutions for veterans who could not support themselves. As a result of its work, the Society received a \$5000 grant from the state for the purpose of developing a state soldiers home. In addition, the Society employed the popular strategy of a "sanitary fair"—a festive fund-raising event popular at the time-- to bring in additional money for their cause. They realized more than \$100,000 from the fair, held in the summer of 1865. These financial resources allowed the organization to buy land west of Milwaukee and to begin planning for construction of a state soldiers' home.¹⁰ Their plans and activities coincided with the establishment of the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers and the reorganized Board's need to quickly set up an initial system of NHDVS branches.

George Walker of Milwaukee was appointed a member of the NHDVS Board of Managers in its 1866 reorganization and was subsequently elected a vice-president of that board. He approached the Wisconsin Soldiers' Home Society and suggested they turn over their resources to the NHDVS in order to encourage the construction of one of the national branches in Milwaukee. The proposal was met with a considerable amount of skepticism by the women, who were the backbone of the society, and their supporters. In general, they held that people had donated money to them for a state home rather than a national home. They also believed a state home would be more responsive to Wisconsin veterans. In addition, they undoubtedly recognized that their ability to remain involved in veterans' care and to guide the development of a veterans' institution would be curtailed if they no longer controlled the money they had raised. Proponents of the proposal pointed out that the funds of the Society were inadequate to build, equip, and maintain such a home at the state level and that further monies would need to be raised through taxation and donations on a continual basis. In addition, a national home could serve more veterans than a state home and thus benefit a larger pool of men. Although they initially rejected the proposal, the members of the Wisconsin Soldiers' Home Society ultimately agreed to turn their resources over to the NHDVS in 1866.¹¹

¹⁰ Halverson, et. al., 8/41; *Milwaukee Sentinel*, March 7, 1866, typescript of newspaper article in Clement J. Zablocki Medical Center Archives (CJZMCA).

¹¹ Patrick J. Kelly, *Creating a National Home: Building the Veterans' Welfare State, 1860-1900* (Cambridge: Harvard

NORTHWESTERN BRANCH, NHDVS**Page 34**

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

After accepting the resources of the Wisconsin group, the NHDVS Board of Managers decided to locate the Northwestern Branch of the institution in Milwaukee. They chose a tract of nearly four hundred acres of rolling land one mile west of the city and on the western side of the Menomonee River Valley. The topography of high hills and deep, wooded ravines there offered a varied and scenic landscape. Approximately one-third of the acreage acquired by the Board of Managers was purchased from John L. Mitchell, a former Union soldier and son of Alexander Mitchell, a prominent Milwaukee businessman and president of the Executive Committee of the Wisconsin Soldiers' Home Society. Another piece of the property was purchased from John H. Tweedy, a business associate of Alexander Mitchell. Dr. Erastus B. Wolcott of Milwaukee succeeded George Walker on the Board of Managers after the latter's death in late 1866 and was subsequently named local manager for the Northwestern Branch. He was also a business colleague of Tweedy and Mitchell in the Milwaukee and Mississippi Railroad, which had been constructed through the site chosen but was failing at the time of the branch's founding.¹² Thus, the establishment of the Northwestern Branch proved to be a financial benefit to many of the men involved as well as an asset to the city of Milwaukee and a refuge for Civil War veterans.

By May 1867 a number of farmhouses on the property were used as members' quarters and the Mitchell home served as a hospital while the initial building program was underway.¹³ These humble buildings soon gave way to architecture that more closely expressed the Board's vision for the facility and the system. Milwaukee Architect Edward Townsend Mix designed the Northwestern Branch's original buildings, the oldest buildings constructed under the Board of Managers' administration. Mix was born in 1831 in New Haven, Connecticut. His family moved to Andover, Illinois in 1836, then to New York City in 1845 where he studied architecture with a New York firm. In 1855 Mix relocated to Chicago and worked with William W. Boyington. In 1856 he moved to Milwaukee as a partner in Boyington and Mix to oversee the firm's work in the state. In 1857 Mix opened his own office and established his reputation as a leading architect. From 1864 to 1867 Mix served as the state architect, and during this period (1866) he won a competition for the Kansas state capitol, although his design would be changed during construction. In 1872 he designed a new mansion to replace the demolished 1843 fur trade mansion, Villa Louis, in Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin (NHL, 1960). Closer to home, Mix designed many of Milwaukee's most prominent buildings, including the 1860 Iron Block, the 1865 Music Hall, the 1878 Mitchell Building, the 1880 Chamber of Commerce Building, the 1886 Plankinton House Hotel, and the 1886 Chicago, Milwaukee, and St Paul Railroad Depot as well as a number of churches and private homes. He also was responsible for a number of commercial buildings for wealthy businessmen in Minneapolis and St. Paul. Beginning in 1881 Mix worked in partnership with Milwaukee architect Walter A. Holbrook. During this time Mix's 1883 design for a Richardsonian Romanesque style church won the national competition for St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Milwaukee. Mix opened an office in Minneapolis in 1888; he died in 1890.¹⁴

University Press, 1997), 86-88; *Third Annual Report and Memorial, Wisconsin Soldier's Home, Milwaukee: To the Legislature* (Milwaukee: Daily Wisconsin Printing House, 1867), 9-11, Milwaukee County Historical Society Research Library, Milwaukee, Wisconsin; *Milwaukee [Sentinel]*, May 31, 1866, June 9, 1866, June 11, 1866, June 18, 1866, typescripts of newspaper articles, CJZMCA.

¹² Halverson, et.al., 8/42; Suzanne Julin, "National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers: Assessment of Significance and National Historic Landmark Recommendations," National Council on Public History and National Park Service, Midwest Regional Office, 2007, 42.

¹³ "July 1976 Bicentennial Notes," Milwaukee County Historical Society Research Library, Milwaukee, Wisconsin, Documents Folder 2.

¹⁴ Halverson, et al., 8/43, 8/52; "July 1976 Bicentennial Notes;" Wisconsin Historical Society, "Mix, Edward Townsend 1831-1890;" *Dictionary of Wisconsin History*, 1 October 2007, [http://www.wisconsinhistory.org/dictionary/index.asp?action=view&term_id=1406&term=](http://www.wisconsinhistory.org/dictionary/index.asp?action=view&term_id=1406&term;); Daina Penkiunas, Wisconsin Historical Society, to Dena Sanford, 21 January 2009, copy on file National Park Service, Midwest Regional Office, Omaha, Nebraska.

NORTHWESTERN BRANCH, NHDVS**Page 35**

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

In his nearly 35-year career, Mix employed a number of architectural styles in his commissions in the Midwest, including Italianate, Second Empire, Gothic, Queen Anne, and Richardsonian Romanesque. The focus of Mix's work at the Northwestern Branch was the aptly-described Main Building, built on the site's highest elevation and very visible from surrounding vantage points. Mix designed the building in Gothic style, characterized by steeply pitched roofs, cross gables, pointed arch entrance openings and windows, crowns over doors and windows, and mansard roofs. Mix's building particularly reflected the influence of John Ruskin, an English architectural critic. Ruskin influenced the High Victorian Gothic style, which was used in prominent, large-scale buildings and featured flat, multicolored, complex masonry surfaces and decorative elements that neither served nor suggested practical purposes. The first major building constructed under the Board of Managers' oversight, the Main Building was designed to hold most of the various functions of the branch under one roof. The four-story edifice contained residential rooms, administrative offices, kitchen, dining hall, chapel and meeting hall, bath rooms, and laundry facilities. A hospital constructed in 1867-68 (demolished), provided medical services. Theoretically, the Main Building combined the concepts of a compact and efficient building housing necessary services and an architectural statement that honored veterans and impressed the public. Unfortunately, the building was less successful in reality. Cost overruns caused the Board of Managers to halt construction before Mix's conception, which included pavilions at the ends, was completed. The basement laundry and bathing facilities created excessive humidity inadequately addressed by the ventilation system. Only the basement and the first floor were heated, often leaving quarters uncomfortably cold. In the 1870s, the replacement of heating mechanisms and installation of ventilator shafts corrected the most vexing issues. Four towers were also added, although they did not conform to Mix's original plan and only slightly increased its capacity for residents. The problems the Main Building presented influenced the Board of Managers to favor a decentralized system in other branches, with separate buildings serving various functions. Initial design and construction at the Northwestern Branch included, besides the Main Building, residences for the branch's governor and another official, three gatehouses, the hospital, and the core road system, which led past the Main Building and encircled the residences.¹⁵

The Northwestern Branch was located in a dramatic river valley terrain with areas of dense woods, many varieties of shrubs and grasses, and long views. Those qualities were enhanced by the work of Thomas Budd Van Horne, who designed the grounds as well as the cemetery and utilized the topography to design a landscape in the Picturesque style. Van Horne was a landscape gardener and former army chaplain in the Ohio Volunteer Infantry. He had planned military cemeteries at Chattanooga, Tennessee (1863), and Marietta, Georgia (1864). At both cemeteries, Van Horne applied the same popular rural landscape cemetery design that had been established at Mount Auburn Cemetery in Boston in the 1830s. He used a small hill as the cemetery site, arranging circular paths and roads around the hill. Between these he located burial sites, retaining the top of the hill to focus on a tall monument. In a similar vein, Van Horne's plan for the Northwestern Branch maintained a visual focus on the Main Building at a high point on the property. From this emanated curving paths and roads lined with trees, creating a scenic, pastoral, and relaxing setting. Eventually, four small artificial lakes, manicured lawns, and formal flower beds contrasted with the natural woods and rolling hills. Land in the north and east portions of the branch was used for farming.¹⁶

Development of the Northwestern Branch

By 1877, the population of the Northwestern Branch had increased from an average of 212 members in its first year to an average of 1307, and local manager E. B. Wolcott urged the construction of additions to the Main

¹⁵ Halverson, et al., 8/42, 8/44, 8/52; Julin, "National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers," 42-43, 53; Trachtenberg, Marvin and Isabella Hyman, *Architecture From Prehistory to Post-Modernism: The Western Tradition* (Harry N. Abrams, 1986), 458-459.

¹⁶ Halverson, et al., 8/43-8/51; Kelly, 121; Julin, "National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers," 43, 51.

NORTHWESTERN BRANCH, NHDVS**Page 36**

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

Building that would create more barracks space and separate facilities that would house kitchen, dining, and recreational functions. Although the Board denied his initial requests, a building program instituted at the end of the decade began to expand the branch and to decentralize its functions. In 1879, the branch added a new Italianate hospital designed by Henry C. Koch, who also designed other branch buildings during the 1880s and 1890s, including Ward Memorial Hall, which held a restaurant, waiting room, post office, and theater. Ward Memorial Hall also contained an office for the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul Railroad. During this period, the branch also added a new bakery, quartermaster storehouse, and commissary storehouse (demolished). New barracks were constructed in 1884, and 1888. The Shingle style chapel was constructed in 1889. New staff residences built in 1887 reflected Queen Anne and Shingle styles. The Classical Revival style library was built in 1891 and the social hall was constructed in 1894. The three-story frame Colonial Revival social hall held bowling alleys and spaces for meetings and dancing. The headquarters building combined Colonial Revival and Renaissance Revival elements. A new power house built in 1895 and a new quartermaster storehouse built in 1896 enhanced the facility's physical plant. The late nineteenth-century building program decentralized the functions of the Northwestern Branch and provided an eclectic mix of architectural styles. It also recognized the changing needs of an aging and increasingly ill population. In 1893, the branch built a combination barrack, sometimes referred to as "old men's barrack" (demolished) that combined quarters, kitchen, and dining facilities.¹⁷

The prolific Milwaukee architect Henry C. Koch designed many of the buildings constructed during the 1879-1890 building program, including the hospital, the chapel, Ward Memorial Hall, a combination "old men's" barracks (demolished) and probably the quartermaster storehouse. He may also have been responsible for additional barracks and officers' quarters constructed during this period. Koch's variety of styles and placement of buildings within the existing landscape plan complemented the Picturesque landscape designed by Thomas Budd Van Horne. His work differed from his predecessor, Mix, in that his work is very straightforward and utilitarian, without the elaborate stylistic features that characterize Mix's work.¹⁸

Koch was born in Germany in 1841 and immigrated with his parents to Milwaukee in 1842. He trained as an architect through an apprenticeship with George W. Mygatt from 1856 to 1862, when he enlisted as a private in the 24th Wisconsin volunteers. During the Civil War Koch served as a topographical engineer for General Philip Sheridan and was commended for his maps of battlefields. After the war, Koch returned to Milwaukee and practiced architecture in partnerships for several years, first with Mygatt, then with Julius Hess (a former associate of Edward Townsend Mix). He formed his own firm, H. C. Koch and Co., in 1870, and was associated with brother-in-law Herman Paul Schnetzkey from 1874-1887. In 1874, less than a month before being awarded the contract for the Northwestern Branch hospital, Koch received a commission for an addition to the Milwaukee County Hospital. This was followed by a design for the Milwaukee County Insane Asylum in 1878. His design of Milwaukee's 1871 Grand Opera House (demolished) preceded his work on the Home's Ward Memorial Hall, which in turn preceded the 1882 Milwaukee Turner Hall (NHL, 1996).¹⁹ In these latter two buildings can be seen Koch's preference for "Cream City" brick, highlighted with banding and inlay patterns of red brick. During a forty-year career that spanned 1870-1910, Koch would design nearly 300 buildings in Wisconsin, working in the popular styles of his age: Italianate, Gothic, Second Empire and Romanesque.²⁰ Among his commissions were private residences, churches, schools, courthouses, and other public buildings including Milwaukee's imposing 1895 German Renaissance Revival City Hall (NHL, 2005).

¹⁷ Halverson, et al., 8/44-47, 8/54; Maria Barrett Butler, "The National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers," *Harpers New Monthly Magazine*, 437 (October, 1886): 690; Julin, "National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers," 42-47, 55-56.

¹⁸ Halverson, et al., 8/55.

¹⁹ Halverson, et al., 8/44, 8/54-55; Joy Krause, "Koch Stood as Tall as His Steeples," *Milwaukee Journal*, January 23, 1995.

²⁰ Quinn Evans Architects, "Milwaukee City Hall" National Historic Landmark, April 5, 2005, 8/14.

NORTHWESTERN BRANCH, NHDVS**Page 37**

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

Early twentieth century construction at the Northwestern Branch reflected the increased concern with medical care for veterans. In particular, the branch constructed additional housing for medical staff; the houses are vernacular in style with some Colonial Revival references. The Protestant chaplain's quarters was erected in 1901, a nurses' quarter in 1902 (demolished), two duplex quarters in 1908, and the Catholic chaplain's quarters in 1909.²¹ As membership at the branch declined, so did development activity.

Recreation, Entertainment, and Visitors at the Northwestern Branch

In 1868, as the Northwestern Branch was under construction, a local newspaper noted that the branch would "be the place of resort for our citizens and those who visit us. The grounds possess natural advantages and beauty superior to those of the great Central Park of New York and are to be improved and thrown open to us."²² These words proved true. When the facility was founded, Milwaukee had not yet developed an urban park system, and as the Northwestern Branch developed, townspeople and visitors utilized the facility as a park and entertainment center. Local access was facilitated following completion of the Milwaukee Electric Railway and Light Company interurban line and a station at the north entrance to the Home. Another line provided access from the south.

Visitors enjoyed a variety of activities at the home, including picnics, strolls on the grounds, regular band concerts, and dancing at the dance hall, Fourth of July celebrations, and light lunches at its restaurant. The prominent and imposing Main Hall became a tourist attraction in itself. The branch's four lakes—one of which was home to pairs of swans—provided both scenery and rides in rented rowboats. Soldiers Home Play Field, an area of about fifty acres built in the 1870s, provided a spot for branch members and visitors alike to participate in outdoor activities. Winding roads and paths, smooth lawns, the wide variety of trees and shrubs, and the varied terrain provided an urban oasis for Milwaukee citizens as well as for the residents of the branch; conservatories provided plantings for colorful flowerbeds, including some arranged to spell names like "Grant" and "Sheridan" that invoked the veterans' service. The attractions of the landscape were complemented by more novel attractions, including "Joe," a captive American eagle kept grounded by a long chain attached to one of his legs. By the early 1900s, the library at the Northwestern Branch held nearly eleven thousand books and subscribed to several dozen newspapers and magazines.²³

The veterans themselves also entertained the visitors. An 1871 production featured branch members as actors in a performance of the popular "Ten Nights in a Bar-room," sponsored in part by a local temperance group and the Grand Army of the Republic. The play was so successful that members agreed to do another performance at Milwaukee's Music Hall.²⁴

²¹ Julin, "National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers," 44.

²² *Milwaukee [Sentinel]*, March 18, 1868, typescript copy, CJZMCA.

²³ J. D. Beck, compiler, *The Blue Book of the State of Wisconsin* (Madison: Democratic printing Company, 1907), 26 December 2005, <http://freepages/books.rootsweb.com/~wirockbios/Blfue1907/1907-5-USVH.htm>.

²⁴ James Marten, "A Place of Great Beauty, Improved by Man: The Soldiers' Home and Victorian Milwaukee," *Milwaukee History* 22 (Spring, 1999), 3, 7-12; *Milwaukee [Sentinel]*, July 17, 1871, typescript copy, CJZMCA; Elizabeth Corbett, *Out at the Soldiers' Home: A Memory Book* (New York: D. Appleton-Century Company, 1941), 28-32; Halverson, et. al., 8/44; Kelly, 113; Veterans Administration Center, Wood, Wisconsin, *Centennial: Wood VAC Century of Service 1867-1967* [Milwaukee: Veterans Administration Center, 1967], 16; Milwaukee Public Schools, Division of Municipal Recreation and Community Education, "The Ward Memorial Theatre: Briefing Paper," Department of Veterans Affairs Historic Preservation Office, Department of Veterans Affairs, Washington, D. C.; *Milwaukee [Sentinel]*, September 12 and 18, 1871, typescript copy, CJZMCA.

NORTHWESTERN BRANCH, NHDVS**Page 38**

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

Ward Memorial Hall, designed by Henry C. Koch and constructed in 1881, became a popular site for such theatrical productions. The hall was named in honor of Horatio Ward, a successful American businessman from Virginia who lived forty years in London until his death in 1867. Ward bequeathed \$112,000 in state bonds and interest to the Board of Managers. The Board used the money to build chapels, amusement halls, and other facilities for which no appropriated funds had been awarded.²⁵ The edifice was originally built as a theater, restaurant, and train passenger waiting room and was also used as a chapel and housed veterans when membership exceeded space in barracks. In 1897, the building was remodeled for use solely as a theater and hosted many appearances by lecturers, vaudeville troupes, and musicians; performers appearing elsewhere in Milwaukee often gave free shows at the re-named Ward Memorial Theater for the veterans' benefit. Modern entertainers at the Hall included Bob Hope, Liberace, Ethel Merman, and Burns & Allen, among others. As the motion picture industry developed, the theater acquired equipment to show frequent movies.²⁶

Despite access to a variety of entertainments and recreations, many of the members at the Northwestern Branch, like members at other branches, succumbed to the temptations of alcohol. The establishment of a beer hall on the grounds in the 1870s---the first such facility in the NHDVS system---helped to address this issue. At the canteen, men could sit at comfortable tables and chairs, enjoy sandwiches and other snacks, and drink pints of Milwaukee's best beer. The men paid five cents for each glass and the proceeds went into the Post Fund to be used for other nonessential entertainments and improvements. Elizabeth Corbett, who grew up at the Northwestern Branch while her father was an official there from 1888 until 1915, believed that the canteen was the only place where the veterans socialized with each other, otherwise guarding their privacy and solitude. Although the canteen was successful and inspired other branches to establish similar facilities, Northwestern Branch officials continued to face the problems of off-site drinking. By 1896, more than thirty saloons existed near the northern and southern entrances of the branch, many sporting patriotic names that might appeal to veterans. Many of these establishments offered the veterans credit at the saloons to keep them dependent on these sources and sometimes served them drink that made them ill. A Milwaukee newspaper reporter complained that some city residents took advantage of the veterans by patronizing the saloons, convincing the men to buy them drinks, and robbing them when they were inebriated.²⁷

Recreation, entertainment, and the park-like grounds at the Northwestern Branch served both the men who lived there and Milwaukee's citizens and visitors. These amenities helped reinforce to both the veterans and the public that the NHDVS was not a charitable institution but a reward for the men who had served their country.

Medical and Geriatric Care at the Northwestern Branch

As the Civil War veterans who made up the bulk of the NHDVS population during the nineteenth century grew older, medical treatment and care for the aged became greater concerns for the Board of Managers and individual branch officials. At the Northwestern Branch, several innovations addressed these issues.

In 1883, an elevator was installed in the Northwestern Branch's Main Building, allowing members to avoid climbing flights of stairs to their quarters.²⁸ In the ensuing decades, other branches would install elevators in

²⁵ Ward was a partner of Junius Morgan---father of John Pierpont Morgan---and George Peabody. By 1919 the Board had expended more than \$185,000 from the fund. "The Will of Horatio Ward," *New York Times*, 24 July 1867; Milwaukee Public Schools; U.S. Congress, House, *Report of the Board of Managers for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 1919*, Vol. 84, Doc. No. 365, Dec. 1, 1919, June 5, 1920.

²⁶ Milwaukee Public Schools, 2-3; Halverson, et. al., 8/56.

²⁷ Marten, 6; Corbett, 188-191; Kelly, 165.

²⁸ The first elevator for the NHDVS Homes had been steam-operated and was installed in the Central Branch hospital in 1871. That hospital was demolished. J.C. Gobrecht, *History of the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers: With a Complete*

NORTHWESTERN BRANCH, NHDVS**Page 39**

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

existing buildings or include them in the designs of new buildings. In 1890, the Northwestern Branch contracted with the Wisconsin Training School for Female Nurses to employ female nurses. It was the first branch in the system to do so. Until this point, NHDVS members had been hired to provide most of the care of the infirm residents; the introduction of professional nurses reflected the fact that the aging population could no longer perform the necessary nursing functions. Also in 1890, the NHDVS Inspector General suggested the development of elderly members' wards for old men who were not ill enough for hospitalization but who could benefit from a separate kitchen and mess serving soft, bland food. In 1893, the Northwestern branch built the first such combination barrack, sometimes referred to as "old men's barrack" (demolished). The combination barrack combined quarters, kitchen, and dining facilities, allowing elderly men to dine where they lived rather than marching to the main mess and to eat meals particularly suited to their needs. Subsequently, the combination barrack concept was incorporated at several other branches. In the early 1920s, trained nurses were placed at all the combination barracks to insure proper care of elderly veterans, thus expanding the NHDVS role in caring for geriatric men.²⁹

As elderly veterans passed on, the NHDVS population declined after 1909. In 1916, NHDVS Inspector General W. P. Jackson noted that the system had more capacity than it needed and suggested the Northwestern Branch, which was in need of expensive repairs, be closed and its members transferred elsewhere. Subsequently, the Board of Managers voted to close the branch. The onset of World War I, however, changed the future of the NHDVS and the Northwestern Branch survived to serve new groups of veterans with improved medical facilities. With the 1917 amendment to the War Risk Insurance Act which entitled all veterans to medical care, the need for medical facilities increased. The expansion of benefits shifted the focus of the NHDVS even further from residential facilities to medical services. At the Northwestern Branch, barracks were converted to hospital wards. A new tuberculosis hospital was built on the southwestern edge of the property, insuring isolation for tuberculosis patients. The five hundred bed, \$1,200,000 hospital was completed in 1923, one of nine such hospitals designed by architects in the Treasury Department and contained facilities for bed patients, ambulant patients, administration, and other services. The existing hospital was modernized and an addition with a new kitchen and dining room added. A greenhouse was built and a smokestack was added to the power plant. The expansion of medical services required an enlarged staff and housing to accommodate them. Duplex residences for six families and fifty rooms for nurses were added in 1922 and 1923.³⁰

The demands created by returning World War I veterans who needed medical treatment created particular demands for the Northwestern Branch, especially the care of tuberculosis patients. In the 1920s, in addition to male veterans, the Northwestern Branch began to serve female veterans -- women who had served as nurses during World War I. A ward in the new tuberculosis hospital was set aside for treatment of women, and about a dozen women were patients there in 1924.³¹

Correspondence of NHDVS officials during the early 1920s indicates active recruitment of physicians for the NHDVS medical staff and particularly for work with tuberculosis patients. For assistant surgeon openings, the institution looked for men with federal or some state license who were completing their internships. The

Guide Book to the Central Home, at Dayton, Ohio, (Dayton: United Brethren Printing Establishment, 1875) 80.

²⁹ Halverson, et al., 8/44-47; Julin, "National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers," 42, 44; Cetina, 297, 316-317; "Annual Report of the Board of Managers of the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers for the Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 1924," 1, Department of Veterans Affairs Central Library (DVACL) (Annual Report, 1924).

³⁰ Julin, "National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers," 43; "Annual Report of the Board of Managers of the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers for the Fiscal Year ending June 30, 1922, 1-2, DVACL (Annual Report, 1922); "Annual Report of the Board of Managers of the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 1923, 6, DVACL (Annual Report, 1923); "Annual Report, 1924," n.p.; Cetina, 364-365, 379-380; Halverson, et al., 8/48-49.

³¹ Halverson, et al., 8/49.

NORTHWESTERN BRANCH, NHDVS**Page 40**

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

doctors were paid approximately \$200 per month and were supplied with quarters. The quarters for both single and married men were furnished except for linens and household items. The Northwestern Branch was one of the larger hospitals (the others were at the Southern, Mountain, and Central Branches) to which such appointments were made.³² The demand for increased medical services and expanded staff resulting from the return of injured and ill World War I veterans insured the continuation of the Northwestern Branch and improved its facilities.

Transitions under the Veterans Administration and Department of Veterans Affairs

By the time the Northwestern Branch was incorporated into the Veterans Administration in 1930, the facility was slightly less than four hundred acres in size and held seventy-one buildings, including barracks, two hospitals, staff residences, and supporting social and physical plant buildings. After the transition, a new hospital annex was constructed south of the original buildings and near the tuberculosis facility. In 1938, a new wing was added to the 1923 hospital building; this addition was demolished in the 1970s. Garages and storage buildings were constructed during the 1930s, as well as a new kitchen for the Main Building, built from bricks salvaged from the demolition of the original 1867 kitchen. During World War II, additional construction at the Northwestern Branch included the construction of Quonset huts for storage and maintenance purposes. In the 1950s, the Veterans Administration donated the former branch Play Field to the City of Milwaukee and the Miller Park Baseball Field and Helfaer Park were built there. In the 1960s and 1970s, other major building projects took place in the southern section of the campus, outside the historic core. A new hospital was constructed in 1966 and a new domiciliary building was completed in 1979. In 2004, a regional office building was erected.³³

Cemetery

Before 1871, the Northwestern Branch buried its soldiers in private cemeteries in Milwaukee. In that year, the branch established the Soldiers Home Cemetery. Like other cemeteries at NHDVS branches, the Western Branch cemetery features a relatively large monument in a prominent location: the obelisk honoring Civil War veterans was erected by the U.S. Soldiers and Sailors Monument Association in 1903. Other NHDVS developments included the construction of a reception house in 1900. The cemetery expanded south of the railroad grade in the mid twentieth century with graves of soldiers who served in World War II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War. A cemetery office building was constructed in 1955 and demolished in the early 1990s. In 1973, the site became a national cemetery of the National Cemetery Administration

Conclusion

The Northwestern Branch of the NHDVS outstandingly represents the evolution of the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers from its establishment until its incorporation into the Veterans Administration by illustrating the development of veterans' benefits in the United States, the commitment of the public to the ideal of care and respect for war veterans, and the use of architecture and landscape architecture to express that commitment. Its location, size, layout and railroad connection continue to represent the Board of Manager's 1866 criteria for site evaluation. The Northwestern Branch Main Building is the only surviving NHDVS building designed to combine multiple basic functions under one roof. The Northwestern Branch pioneered in

³² B. F. Hayden to Dr. W. W. Maxwell, February 5, 1929; B. F. Hayden to Medical Director and Superintendent, Cincinnati General Hospital, February 20, 1929, Folder Correspondence of Dr. B. F. Hayden, Feb 1, 1929-July 6, 1931, Box No. 1, Vol. 1, Records of the Veterans Administration, Administrative Records Re: Soldiers Home, Record Group 15, National Archives, Washington, D.C.

³³ Julin, "National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers," 44; Halverson, et al, 8/44, 8/50-51, 8/57.

NORTHWESTERN BRANCH, NHDVS**Page 41**

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

building residential and medical facilities and services for veterans. Residential housing constructed in the 1920s reflects the post-World War I expansion of medical benefits to veterans and the need for additional staff to serve them. The Northwestern Branch served as a park for citizens, provided them with recreation and entertainment, and reinforced their support of veteran soldiers. The Northwestern Branch's Main Building is the oldest existing building constructed under the NHDVS Board of Managers' oversight, and the ensuing growth of the branch illustrates the rejection of centralized functions and the adoption of decentralized plans for NHDVS facilities.

NORTHWESTERN BRANCH, NHDVS

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

Page 42

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

“Annual Report of the Board of Managers of the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 1922.” Parts I and II. Veterans Administration Central Library, Washington, D.C.

“Annual Report of the Board of Managers of the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 1923.” Parts I and II. Veterans Administration Central Library, Washington, D.C.

“Annual Report of the Board of Managers of the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 1924.” Parts I and II. Veterans Administration Central Library, Washington, D.C.

Beck, J. D., comp. *The Blue Book of the State of Wisconsin*. Madison: Democratic Printing Company, 1907.
<http://freepages/books.rootsweb.com/~wirockbios/Blfuel1907/1907-5-USVH.htm>.

Butler, Maria Barrett. “The National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers.” *Harpers New Monthly Magazine* 437 October 1886.

Cetina, Judith Gladys. “A History of Veterans’ Homes in the United States, 1811-1930.”
Ph.D. diss., Case Western Reserve University, 1977.

H. G. Claus, “Map of the Cemetery of the Northwestern Branch N.H.D.V.S., March 1903, From a Survey Under the Direction of Col. Cornelius Wheeler, Governor,” Clement J. Zablocki Medical Center Archives.

Corbett, Elizabeth. *Out at the Soldiers’ Home: A Memory Book*. New York: D. Appleton-Century, 1941.

“Cultural Resource Management in Wisconsin,” Madison: State Historical Society of Wisconsin, 1986, cited in “Dictionary of Wisconsin History,” *Wisconsin Historical Society*, 6 October 2008,
<https://www.wisconsinhistory.org/dictionary>.

Gobrecht, J. C. *History of the National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers: With a Complete Guide Book to the Central Home, at Dayton, Ohio*. Dayton: United Brethren Printing Establishment, 1875.

Julin, Suzanne. “National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers: Assessment of Significance and National Historic Landmark Recommendations.” National Council on Public History and National Park Service, Midwest Region, 2007.

“July 1976 Bicentennial Notes.” Milwaukee County Historical Society Research Library, Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Kelly, Patrick J. *Creating a National Home: Building the Veterans’ Welfare State, 1860-1900*. Cambridge: Harvard University Press, 1997.

Krause, Joy. “Koch Stood as Tall as His Steeples.” *Milwaukee Journal*. January 23, 1995.

Marten, James. “‘A Place of Great Beauty, Improved by Man’: The Soldiers’ Home and Victorian

NORTHWESTERN BRANCH, NHDVS**Page 43**

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

Milwaukee." *Milwaukee History* 22 (Spring, 1999): 2-15.

Milwaukee Public Schools, Division of Municipal Recreation and Community Education, "The Ward Memorial Theatre: Wisconsin's Oldest Theatre," briefing paper, n.d., Ward History file, Department of Veterans Affairs Historic Preservation Office, Washington, D.C.

Milwaukee [Sentinel]. March 7, 1866 to June 18, 1866, March 18, 1868, July 17-September 18, 1871. Typewritten copies of articles. Clement J. Zablocki Medical Center Archives.

Mollenhoff, Gjore J. and Karen Ronne Tupek. "Ward Memorial Hall," National Register of Historic Places Registration Form. September 6, 1984.

Paulsen, Eric. "For 50 Years, Milwaukee's been on a Free Ride. *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*. 27 February 2005.

Penkiunas, Daina. Wisconsin Historical Society, letter to Dena Sanford. 21 January 2009. Copy on file National Park Service, Midwest Regional Office, Omaha, NE.

Planning and Design Institute, Inc. "Clement Zablocki Veterans Administration Medical Center. Historic Preservation Plan." January, 1992.

Quinn Evans Architects. "Milwaukee City Hall" National Historic Landmark. April 5, 2005, 8/14.

Records of the Veterans Administration Administrative Records Re: Soldiers Home. Record Group 15. National Archives. Washington, D. C.

Third Annual Report and Memorial, Wisconsin Soldiers' Home, Milwaukee: To the Legislature. Milwaukee: Daily Wisconsin Printing House, 1867. Milwaukee County Historical Society Research Library, Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Trachtenberg, Marvin and Isabella Hyman. *Architecture from Prehistory to Post-Modernism: The Western Tradition*. New York: Harry N. Abrams, 1986).

U. S. Congress. Committee on Military Affairs. *Medical Care of Veterans*. 90th Cong., 1st sess., 1967-1968. Committee Print 4.

U.S. Congress, House. *Report of the Board of Managers for the Fiscal Year Ending June 30, 1919*. Vol. 84, Doc. No. 365, Dec. 1, 1919. June 5, 1920.

Veterans Administration Center, Wood Wisconsin. *Centennial: Wood VAC Century of Service 1867-1967*. [Milwaukee: Veterans Administration Center, 1967.]

"The Will of Horatio Ward," *New York Times*, 24 July 1871.

Wisconsin Historical Society. "Mix, Edward Townsend 1831-1890." *Dictionary of Wisconsin History*. http://www.wisconsinhistory.org/dictionary/index.asp?action=view&term_id+1406&term.

NORTHWESTERN BRANCH, NHDVS

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

Page 44

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

☐ Preliminary Determination of Individual Listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.☒ Previously Listed in the National Register.☒ Previously Determined Eligible by the National Register.☐ Designated a National Historic Landmark.☒ Recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey:

#WI-360: Overview

#WI-360-A: Building 2 Main Building

#WI-360-B: Building 41 Ward Memorial Hall

#WI-360-C: Building 39 Governor's Residence

#WI-360-D: Building 3 Library

#WI-360-E: Building 12 Chapel

☐ Recorded by Historic American Engineering Record: #

Primary Location of Additional Data:

☒ State Historic Preservation Office☐ Other State Agency☐ Federal Agency☐ Local Government☐ University☐ Other (Specify Repository):**10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

Acreage of Property: approx. 90 acres

UTM References:	Zone	Easting	Northing
A	16	420225	4765342
B	16	420366	4765342
C	16	420955	4764025
D	16	420990	4763370
E	16	420770	4763320
F	16	419955	4763975
G	16	419960	4764580

Verbal Boundary Description:

The Northwestern Branch, National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers Historic District is located in Section 35 of T7N, R21E, and is wholly contained within the boundaries of the City of Milwaukee in Milwaukee County, Wisconsin. The boundary is drawn so as to exclude a portion of Interstate Highway 94, and is therefore divided into two portions. The boundary for the north portion of the district begins at the southerly curbline of West Bluemound Road and the right-of-way of Mitchell Boulevard, then proceeds south along the

NORTHWESTERN BRANCH, NHDVS**Page 45**

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

east edge of the said right-of-way to the north edge of the right-of-way of Interstate Highway 94. The line then proceeds west on the north edge of the said Interstate Highway 94 to the west property line of the Veterans Affairs Medical Center abutting the property of Beth Hamedrosh Hagodel Cemetery; the line then proceeds west north and east along the property line of the Veterans Affairs Medical Center abutting Calvary Cemetery to the west property line of the Veterans Affairs Medical Center right-of-way along Mitchell Boulevard, proceeding north to the southerly curblin of West Bluemound Road, returning to the point of beginning.

The boundary for the south portion of the district begins at a point on the south edge of the right-of-way of Interstate Highway 94 and the northwest corner of the Clement J. Zablocki Veterans Affairs Medical Center, abutting the property of the Spring Hill Cemetery. The line then proceeds east along the southern edge of the right-of-way of Interstate Highway 94 on the property line of the Veterans Affairs Medical Center to the westerly curblin of General Mitchell Boulevard, then follows the base of the Soldiers Home Reef bluff on the property line between the Miller Park grounds and the Veterans Affairs Medical Center, to the intersection with the northerly railroad right-of-way of the Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul & Pacific Railroad and the westerly right-of-way of Highway 41. From this point the boundary proceeds south across the railroad right-of-way to the intersection of Highway 41 and West National Avenue, where the boundary turns west along the northerly right-of-way of West National Avenue to the curblin of General Mitchell Boulevard. The boundary proceeds north along General Mitchell Boulevard to the intersection with North Washington Drive, where it turns west to follow the northerly curblin of North Washington Drive to its intersection with Hines Boulevard. The line then turns north along the easterly curblin of Hines Boulevard to an intersection with an unnamed access road to the Veterans Affairs Medical Center laundry facility area, where it follows the curving road south, then north where it leaves the unnamed road, continuing to an intersection with the southerly right-of-way of the Chicago, Milwaukee, St. Paul & Pacific Railroad. The boundary line then proceeds west to the west property line of the Veterans Affairs Medical Center, then turns north on the established property line to the point of beginning.

Boundary Justification:

The boundary of the historic district incorporates most but not all of the Clement J. Zablocki Veterans Affairs Medical Center, including all resources associated with the period of national significance of the National Historic Landmark historic district. The boundaries include the view shed from the earliest and most prominent Main Building (Building 2) and create a visual separation between the historic district and the more recent developments along West National Avenue. Buildings 56, 61, 70 and 79 have been excluded even though they fall within the period of national significance because the removal of the west wing of Building 70, and the 1938 addition, along with the construction of Buildings 111, 123, 5400 and the associated parking lots have eliminated the original form of the buildings and historic landscape from their context. A portion of the Wood National Cemetery has been excluded from the historic district due to its post-1930 establishment on an area that was formerly open fields.

The boundaries of the Northwest Branch, National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers NHL are discontinuous as the district was physically divided when the East-West Expressway portion of the Milwaukee County Expressway (now Interstate Highway 90/94) was built west from downtown to Waukesha County in 1962.³⁴ The Highway construction bisected the district into a northern third, which contains 5 acres of Wood National Cemetery and part of the Zablocki Drive services road and the Homes' original entrance road (General Mitchell Boulevard), and the larger southern two-thirds portion of the district. While the interstate highway physically separates the district, the landscape and resources remain historically contiguous and are considered contiguous in day-to-day operations by both the Wood National Cemetery and the Department of Veterans

³⁴ Eric Paulsen, "For 50 Years, Milwaukee's been on a Free Ride," *Milwaukee Journal Sentinel*, 27 February 2005.

NORTHWESTERN BRANCH, NHDVS

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

Page 46

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

Affairs in the upkeep and maintenance of the cemetery markers and the VA grounds. The strip of land west of General Mitchell Boulevard has natural grasses and flowers. This appearance, combined with the presence of the historic Calvary Cemetery to the west, continues to evoke the historic north entrance approach.

NORTHWESTERN BRANCH, NHDVS

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

Page 47

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

11. FORM PREPARED BY

Name/Title: Suzanne Julin, Public Historian

Address: 1001 E. Broadway Stop 2 PMB
Missoula, MT 59802

Telephone: 406/542-8606

Date: October 28, 2007

Edited by: Dena Sanford
National Park Service
National Register Programs
Midwest Regional Office
601 Riverfront Drive
Omaha, NE 68102

Telephone: 402-661-1944

Edited by: Alexandra Lord and Patty Henry
National Park Service
National Historic Landmarks Survey
1849 C St., NW (2280)
Washington, DC 20240

Telephone: 202-354-6906 and 202-354-2216

NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARKS PROGRAM

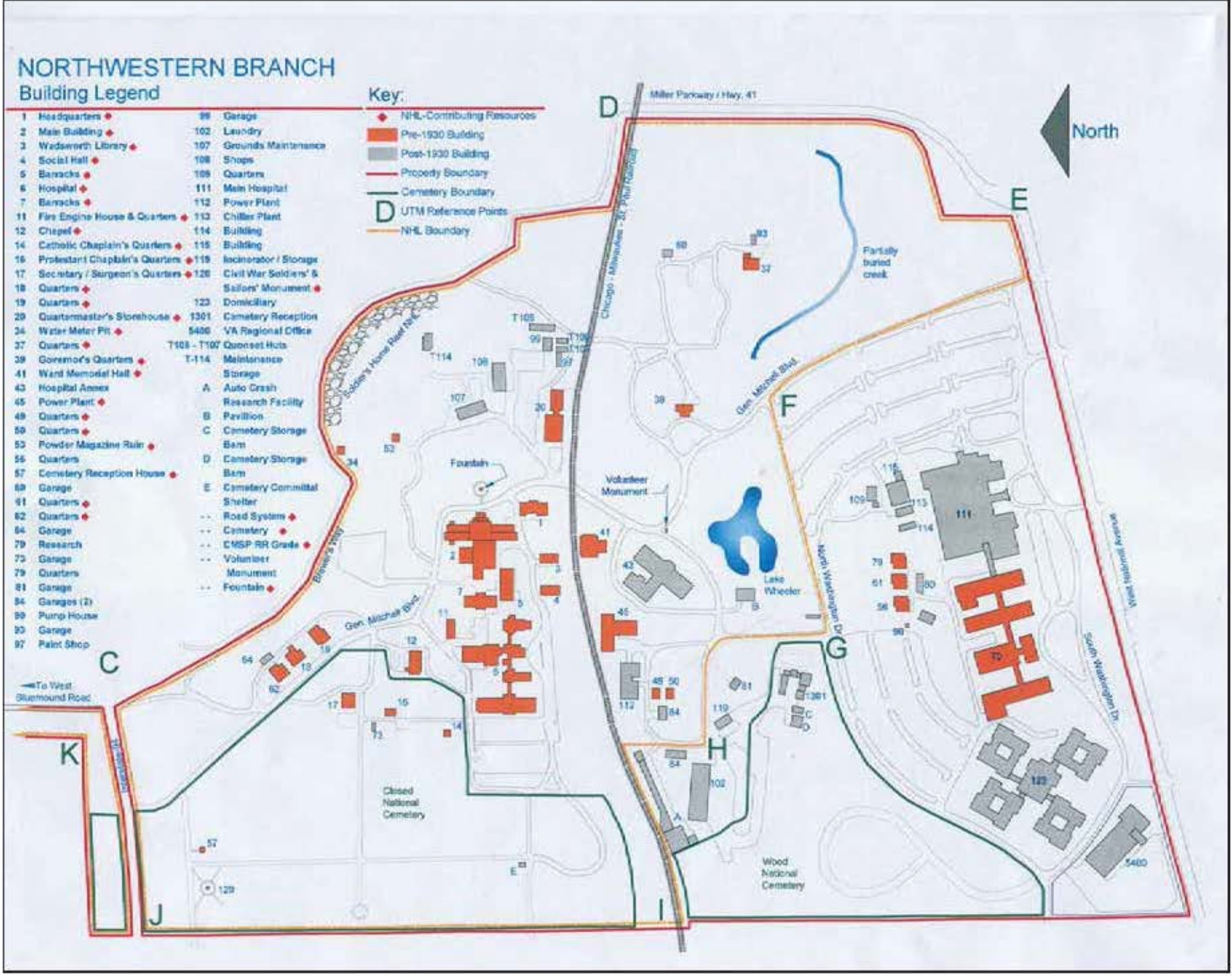
August 25, 2010

NORTHWESTERN BRANCH, NHDVS

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

Figures and Images

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

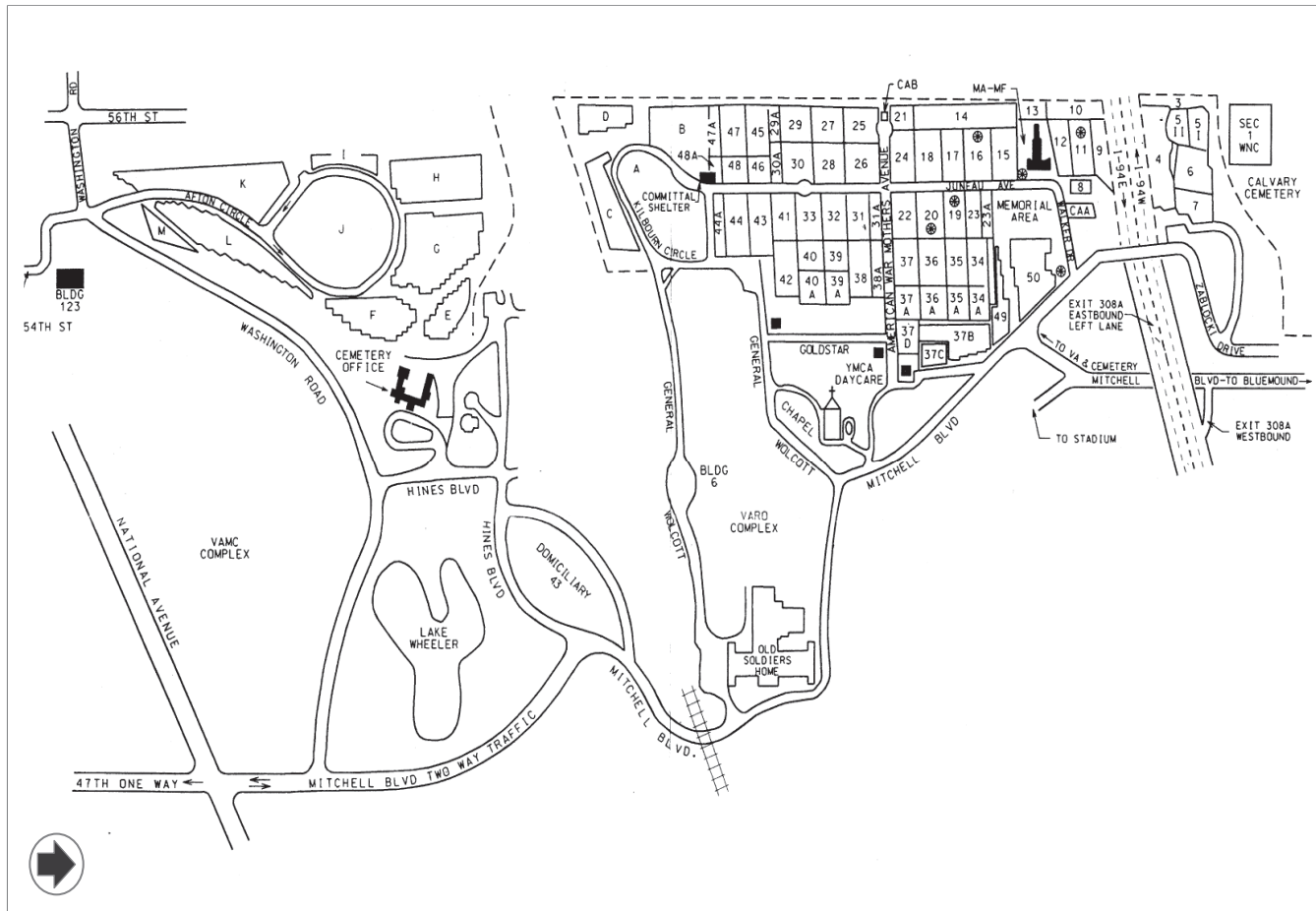


NORTHWESTERN BRANCH, NHDVS

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

Figures and Images

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form



Cemetery Map – Feb 2002

NORTHWESTERN BRANCH, NHDVS

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

Figures and Images

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form



NORTHWESTERN BRANCH NHDVS (Perspective: Main Building #2 with Headquarters #1 in foreground.)
5000 West National Avenue, Town of Milwaukee, Milwaukee County, WI. View to north. Photograph by Brian McCutchen, 2006.



NORTHWESTERN BRANCH NHDVS (Perspective: Wadsworth Library #3, Social Hall #4, Hospital #6, Barracks #5).
5000 West National Avenue, Town of Milwaukee, Milwaukee County, WI. View to west. Photograph by Brian McCutchen, 2006

NORTHWESTERN BRANCH, NHDVS

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

Figures and Images

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form



NORTHWESTERN BRANCH NHDVS (Perspective: Hospital #6, Barracks #5, Main Building #2 along General Wolcott Ave.). 5000 West National Avenue, Town of Milwaukee, Milwaukee County, WI, View to northeast. Photograph by Brian McCutchen, 2006.



NORTHWESTERN BRANCH NHDVS (Barracks #7, Barracks #5, Main Building #2 along General Wolcott Ave.). 5000 West National Avenue, Town of Milwaukee, Milwaukee County, WI. View to northeast. Photograph by Brian McCutchen, 2006.

NORTHWESTERN BRANCH, NHDVS

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

Figures and Images

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form



NORTHWESTERN BRANCH NHDVS (Perspective: Headquarters #1, Main Building in foreground #2, Ward Memorial Hall #41, with modern VA Medical Center in background). 5000 West National Avenue, Town of Milwaukee, Milwaukee County, WI. View to south. Photograph by Brian McCutchen, 2006.



NORTHWESTERN BRANCH NHDVS (Perspective: Chapel # 12, Surgeon's Quarters #17, Wood National Cemetery in background). 5000 West National Avenue, Town of Milwaukee, Milwaukee County, WI. View to west. Photograph by Brian McCutchen, 2006.

NORTHWESTERN BRANCH, NHDVS

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

Figures and Images

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form



NORTHWESTERN BRANCH NHDVS (Perspective: Social Hall #4, Chicago, Milwaukee & St. Paul Railroad grade, Power Plant #45 and Power Plant #112 in background). 5000 West National Avenue, Town of Milwaukee, Milwaukee County, WI. View to southwest. Photograph by Brian McCutchen, 2006.



NORTHWESTERN BRANCH NHDVS (Main Building #2 along General Mitchell Boulevard). 5000 West National Avenue, Town of Milwaukee, Milwaukee County, WI. View to north. Photograph by Brian McCutchen, 2005.

NORTHWESTERN BRANCH, NHDVS

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

Figures and Images

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form



NORTHWESTERN BRANCH NHDVS (Hospital #6 central pavilion). 5000 West National Avenue, Town of Milwaukee, Milwaukee County, WI. View to northeast. Photograph by Brian McCutchen, 2006.



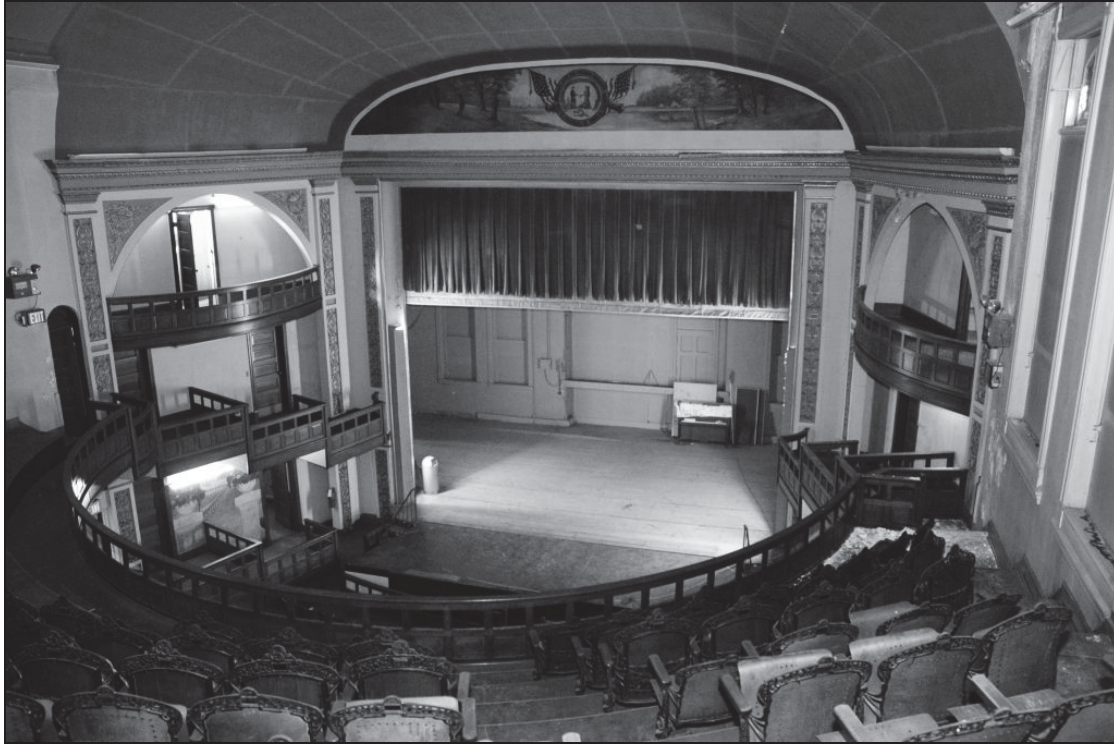
NORTHWESTERN BRANCH NHDVS (Ward Memorial Building #41, Hospital #6 in background). 5000 West National Avenue, Town of Milwaukee, Milwaukee County, WI. View to northwest. Photograph by Brian McCutchen, 2006.

NORTHWESTERN BRANCH, NHDVS

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

Figures and Images

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form



NORTHWESTERN BRANCH NHDVS (Ward Memorial Building #41) theater interior). 5000 West National Avenue, Town of Milwaukee, Milwaukee County, WI. View to north. Photograph by Brian McCutchen, 2006.



NORTHWESTERN BRANCH NHDVS (Governor's Quarters #39). 5000 West National Avenue, Town of Milwaukee, Milwaukee County, WI. View to southeast. Photograph by Brian McCutchen, 2006.

NORTHWESTERN BRANCH, NHDVS

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

Figures and Images

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form



NORTHWESTERN BRANCH NHDVS (Secretary and Surgeon's Quarters #17). 5000 West National Avenue
Town of Milwaukee, Milwaukee County, WI. View to west. Photograph by Brian McCutchen, 2006.



NORTHWESTERN BRANCH NHDVS (Quarters #62, #18, #19). 5000 West National Avenue, Town of Milwaukee,
Milwaukee County, WI. View to northwest. Photograph by Brian McCutchen, 2006.

NORTHWESTERN BRANCH, NHDVS

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

Figures and Images

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form



NORTHWESTERN BRANCH NHDVS (The Volunteer Monument, Lake Wheeler, Building #111 in background). 5000 West National Avenue, Town of Milwaukee, Milwaukee County, WI. View to south. Photograph by Brian McCutchen, 2005.



NORTHWESTERN BRANCH NHDVS (Civil War Soldiers and Sailor's Monument #120, cemetery). 5000 West National Avenue, Town of Milwaukee, Milwaukee County, WI. View to north. Photograph by Brian McCutchen, 2005.

NORTHWESTERN BRANCH, NHDVS

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

Figures and Images

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form



NORTHWESTERN BRANCH NHDVS (Wood National Cemetery in foreground, Chapel #12, Main Building #2, Fire Engine House & Chief Engineer's Quarters #11, Barracks #5, Hospital #6 in background). 5000 West National Avenue Town of Milwaukee, Milwaukee County, WI. View to southeast. Photograph by Brian McCutchen, 2006.



BIRDSEYE VIEW OF NORTHWESTERN BRANCH NHDVS SHOWING GATEHOUSE (gone), ORIGINAL HOSPITAL (gone), MAIN BUILDING #2, RAILROAD GRADE, GOVERNOR'S QUARTERS #39, QUARTERS #37. Drawing by: Unknown, 1867-1878. View to northwest.

NORTHWESTERN BRANCH, NHDVS

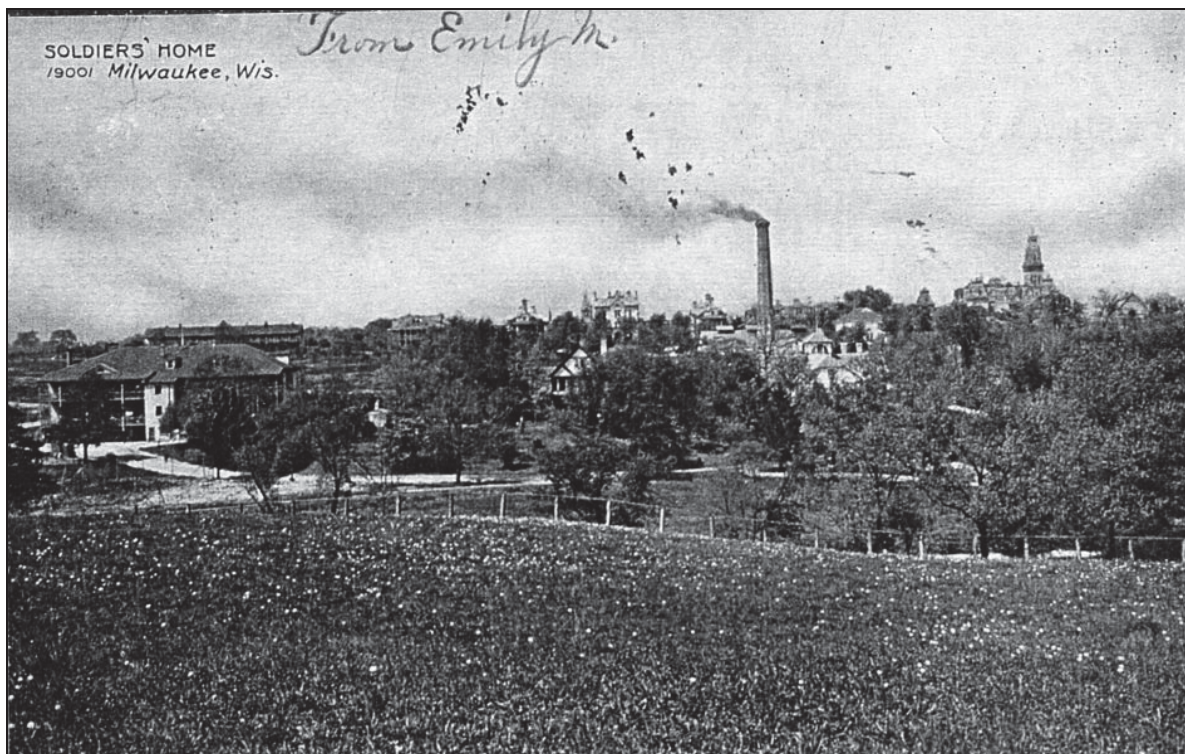
United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

Figures and Images

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form



BIRDSEYE VIEW OF NORTHWESTERN BRANCH NHDVS. Drawing by The Milwaukee Lithograph & Engraving Company, ca. 1890. View to northwest.



VIEW OF NORTHWESTERN BRANCH NHDVS. Photograph by Unknown, ca. 1890. View to north.

NORTHWESTERN BRANCH, NHDVS

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

Figures and Images

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form



NORTHWESTERN BRANCH MAIN BUILDING #2, Photograph by Unknown, ca. 1870.

View to north



NORTHWESTERN BRANCH MAIN BUILDING #2 and HEADQUARTERS #1. Photograph by Unknown, ca. 1890. View to north.

NORTHWESTERN BRANCH, NHDVS

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

Figures and Images

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

**NORTHWESTERN BRANCH HOSPITAL #6, RAILROAD GRADE IN FOREGROUND**

Photograph by A. Wittman, from *National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers, Northwest Branch* 1894. View to north.

**NORTHWESTERN BRANCH HOSPITAL #6, Photograph by unknown, postcard, ca. 1890. View to northwest.**

NORTHWESTERN BRANCH, NHDVS

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

Figures and Images

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form



NORTHWESTERN BRANCH HOSPITAL SOCIAL HALL #4 AND WARD MEMORIAL BUILDING #41. Photograph by A. Wittman, from *National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers, Northwest Branch*, 1894. View to southeast.



NORTHWESTERN BRANCH WADSWORTH LIBRARY #3 INTERIOR. Photograph by A. Wittman, from *National Home for Disabled Volunteer Soldiers, Northwest Branch*, 1894. View to south.

NORTHWESTERN BRANCH, NHDVS

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

Figures and Images

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form



NORTHWESTERN BRANCH RAILROAD GRADE AND WARD MEMORIAL THEATER #41
Photograph by H. H. Bennett, ca. 1885. View to southwest.

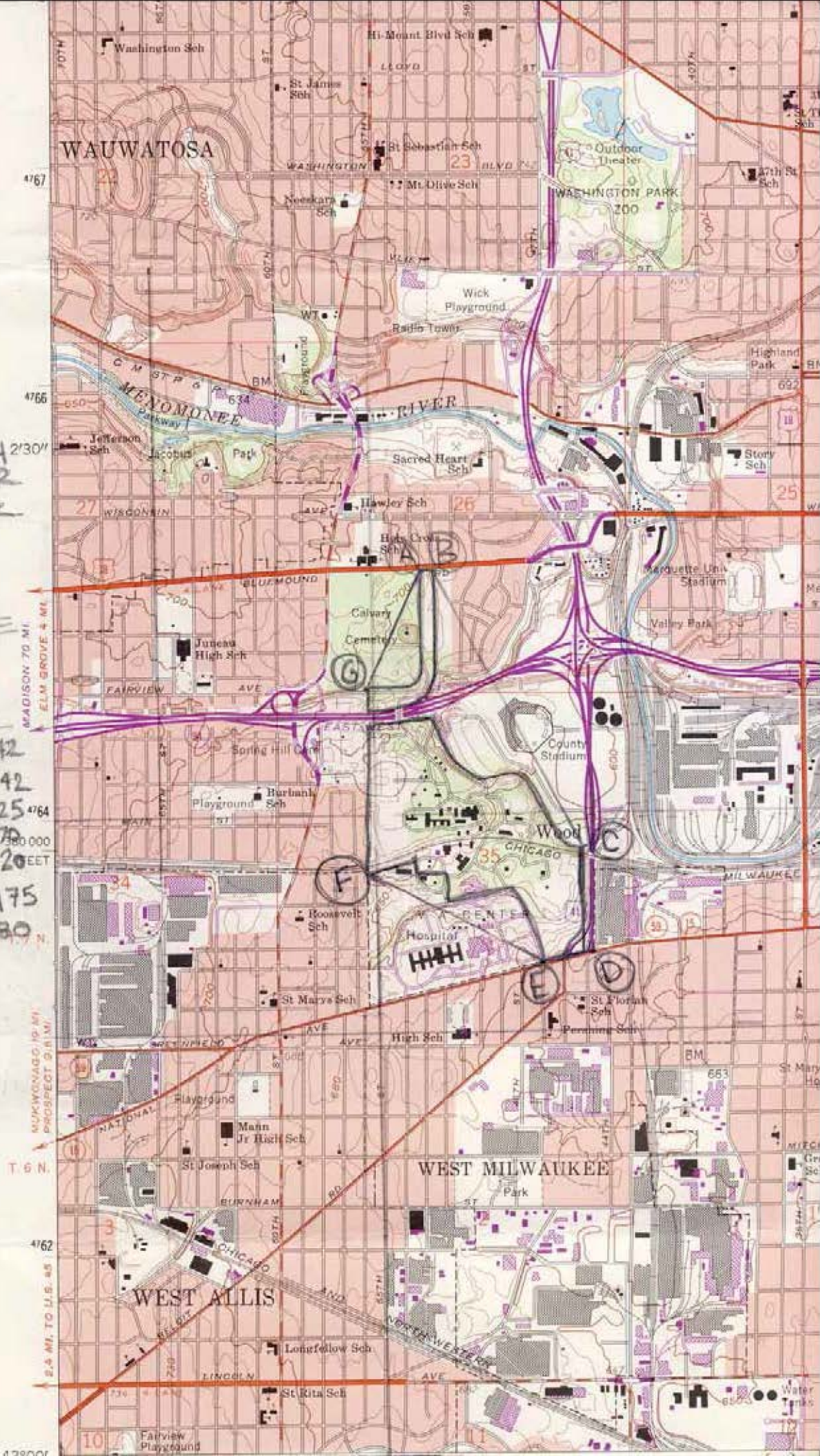
NORTHWESTERN BRANCH
NATIONAL HOME FOR
DISABLED YOUNG
SOLDIERS NHL

MILWAUKEE, WI
5000 W. NATIONAL AVE

UTMS

ZONE EAST NORTH

A 16	420225	4765342
B 16	420366	4765342
C 16	420955	4764025
D 16	420990	4763370
E 16	420770	4763320
F 16	419955	4763975
G 16	419960	4764580



NHL 11/4/1993

NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK NOMINATION

NPS Form 10-900

USDI/NPS NRHP Registration Form (Rev. 8-86)

OMB No. 1024-0018

SOLDIERS' HOME REEF

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

Page 1

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

RECEIVED

DEC 18 1995

DIV HIST PLCS

1. NAME OF PROPERTY

Historic Name: SOLDIERS' HOME REEF

Other Name/Site Number: Rocky Point, National Military Asylum Reef,
Veterans' Hill, Stadium Reef

2. LOCATION

Street & Number: Clement J. Zablocki Veterans Affairs Medical Center grounds,
northeast of Wood Avenue and
General Mitchell Boulevard Not for publication: _____

City/Town: Milwaukee Vicinity: _____

State: WI County: Milwaukee Code: 079 Zip Code: 53295

3. CLASSIFICATION

Ownership of Property
Private: _____
Public-Local: _____
Public-State: _____
Public-Federal: X

Category of Property
Building(s): _____
District: _____
Site: X
Structure: _____
Object: _____

Number of Resources within Property
Contributing

1

1

Noncontributing

0
Total

Number of Contributing Resources Previously Listed in the National Register: _____

Name of Related Multiple Property Listing: _____

SOLDIERS' HOME REEF

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

Page 2

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

4. STATE/FEDERAL AGENCY CERTIFICATION

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this _____ nomination _____ request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property _____ meets _____ does not meet the National Register Criteria.

Signature of Certifying Official_____
Date_____
State or Federal Agency and Bureau

In my opinion, the property _____ meets _____ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of Commenting or Other Official_____
Date_____
State or Federal Agency and Bureau**5. NATIONAL PARK SERVICE CERTIFICATION**

I hereby certify that this property is:

____ Entered in the National Register _____
____ Determined eligible for the _____
____ National Register _____
____ Determined not eligible for the _____
____ National Register _____
____ Removed from the National Register _____
____ Other (explain): _____

Signature of Keeper_____
Date of Action

SOLDIERS' HOME REEF

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

Page 3

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

6. FUNCTION OR USE

Historic: Landscape

Sub: Natural Feature
Park

Current: Landscape

Sub: Natural Feature

7. DESCRIPTION

ARCHITECTURAL CLASSIFICATION: N/A

MATERIALS: N/A

Foundation:

Walls:

Roof:

Other:

SOLDIERS' HOME REEF

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

Page 4

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

Describe Present and Historic Physical Appearance.

Soldiers' Home Reef is a fossil reef that grew approximately 400,000,000 years ago during the Silurian Period (unit of geological time dating from 430,000,000 to 400,000,000 years ago) of Earth's history when this part of North America was located 20° south of the equator and was covered by shallow tropical seas. The reef is situated within the Racine Dolomite (this is the proper name for a specific Silurian rock unit in Wisconsin and Illinois), and contains a variety of marine fossils including trilobites, (extinct free-living, marine invertebrate animal belonging to the arthropods), cephalopods (swimming marine invertebrate molluscan animal, either with shell [e.g., the chambered *Nautilus*] or without shell [e.g., squid]), brachiopods (sedentary marine invertebrate animal with bivalved shell), pelmatozoans (marine invertebrate animal belonging to the echinoderms, having a stalk [e.g., crinoid]), bivalves, bryozoans (colonial marine invertebrate animal with microscopic polyps in an often-branched colony; sometimes called a moss animal) and corals.¹

The reef occurs in a hill that is approximately 500 feet long by 300 feet wide by 70 feet high and projects into the Menomonee River valley from a bluff underlying the historic National Soldiers' Home complex. This is the only undisturbed natural rock bluff remaining along the Menomonee River in Milwaukee County. The reef occurs as a northward-facing rock outcrop in the lower 35 feet of this bluff, and extends for about 450 feet in an east-west direction. The reef hill is the centerpiece of the natural bluff, which features both an endangered plant species unique in the County, and Native American archaeological sites.² The top of the reef, as well as its west, south, and southeast margins, are covered by glacial sediments and soil. Located just 500 feet northeast of "The Main Building" (1869), one of the oldest buildings and the center of activity for the original Soldiers' Home,³ it forms a wooded hill that is part of the historic park-like landscape. Just north of the rock face is a chain-link fence that separates the Soldiers' Home grounds from the parking lot at Milwaukee County Stadium, the land for which had been the Soldiers' Home farm property.

¹ Mikulic, Donald G., "The Paleoecology of Silurian Trilobites with a Section on the Silurian Stratigraphy of Southeastern Wisconsin", Ph.D. Dissertation as a partial fulfillment of Ph.D., submitted to Oregon State University, 1979.

² Personal communication with Donald G. Mikulic and Joanne Klussendorf, December 11, 1990.

³ *125 Years (1867-1992)...in Honor of your Service.* 125th Anniversary Historic Walking Tour Booklet of the Clement J. Zablocki Veterans Affairs Medical Center.

SOLDIERS' HOME REEF

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

Page 5

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

The earliest known view of the reef is an 1875 lithograph showing the prominent reef hill as a focal point of the attractive Soldiers' Home grounds.⁴ The site of the Soldiers' Home in Milwaukee, the city where the concept for these homes for disabled veterans had originated during the Civil War, had been carefully selected, and the grounds were considered "truly magnificent" and the "finest in the country." Nearly 150 acres of the undulating, wooded grounds were laid out as a park, and even many years later it was thought that "no park in the country excels it in natural beauty."⁵ From the dedication of the Soldiers' Home in 1869 until the development of a municipal park system around 1900, these grounds served as one of the most popular park and recreation areas for Milwaukee residents.

Soldier's Home reef has changed little since pioneer settlement of the area in the 1830s. The ruins of a small, one-story, stone gun-powder magazine (1881), used to store ammunition for firing salutes at official ceremonies, is located southeast of the reef on the same hill. The only alterations to the reef have been the dumping of fill along the north toe of the exposure in the 1920s and during construction of the stadium parking lot in the early 1950s. Also, a "ski slide" (from which only a few drill marks remain) was constructed down a small portion of the east end of the north face of the reef as part of a 1933 Federal CWA project to develop some of the farm property as an outdoor recreation center for Milwaukee County. In the early 1950s, a small section of bleacher seating was constructed on the top of the hill (then called Veterans' Hill) that allowed VA center patients to view sporting events at the nearby stadium, but it has been removed. Although the area to the north of the reef has been altered by construction of Milwaukee County Stadium and its parking lot, the rest of the surrounding area retains the rolling topography of the original nineteenth-century Soldiers' Home park-like grounds. Soldiers' Home Reef can be observed readily from the adjacent Milwaukee County Stadium parking lot, and it is also accessible by foot from the Soldiers' Home grounds.

⁴ Kurz, Louis., *National Soldier's Home near Milwaukee*. American Olegraph Co., 1875. Original in the Chicago Historical Society.

⁵ A.T. Andreas, *History of Milwaukee, Wisconsin* (The Western Historical Society, 1881), p. 1881.

SOLDIERS' HOME REEF

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

Page 6

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

8. STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties: Nationally: X Statewide: Locally:

Applicable National
Register Criteria:

A X B X C D

Criteria Considerations
(Exceptions):

A B C D E F G

NHL Criteria:

1, 2

NHL Theme(s): XIII.

Science

B. Earth Science

2. Geology

Areas of Significance:

Science

Period(s) of Significance:

1836-1939

Significant Dates:

1862, 1877

Significant Person(s):

James Hall;
Thomas Crowder Chamberlin;
Increase Allen Lapham

Cultural Affiliation:

N/A

Architect/Builder:

N/A

SOLDIERS' HOME REEF

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

Page 7

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

State Significance of Property, and Justify Criteria, Criteria Considerations, and Areas and Periods of Significance Noted Above.**SUMMARY**

Soldiers' Home Reef meets Criteria A and B for listing in the National Register of Historic Places and Criteria 1 and 2 for designation as a National Historic Landmark.¹ This site is important in the history of the science of geology in the United States for the key role it played in the first recognition of fossil reefs in North America, a major geological concept, and for its association with the careers of several nationally significant nineteenth and early twentieth century geologists. This rock mound in the Menomonee River valley near Milwaukee was discovered by Increase A. Lapham, Wisconsin's first scientist, in the 1830s. In 1862, James Hall was the first to recognize and interpret Soldiers' Home and two other mounds in the vicinity as fossil reefs, making them the first ancient reefs described in North America and among the first described anywhere in the world. Thomas C. Chamberlin used Soldiers' Home and these other reefs in formulating his paleoecological (study of the relationships between ancient organisms and their environment) and sedimentological model of reef development, which was published in his classic 1877 work, *Geology of Eastern Wisconsin*. The two other rock mounds used to define the fossil reef concept have been destroyed or greatly altered by quarrying; only Soldiers' Home Reef remains much as it was when these early geologists first saw it. Therefore, it is the only site that demonstrates the appearance, especially the mound-like configuration, which attracted the attention of these early geologists and was instrumental in formulating this important geological concept. Consequently, Soldiers' Home Reef is important to our understanding of fossil reefs and will continue to provide important information to geological studies. The period of significance for this site was determined to begin with Lapham's arrival in Milwaukee in 1836, when he began his geological investigation of the region, and to end with Robert Shrock's reef study of 1939.

¹ On March 28, 1992, the Soldier's Home Reef was determined to be eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places as a result of an agreement between the State Historic Preservation Officer for Wisconsin, the Federal Preservation Officer for the Veterans Administration and the Director of the Clement J. Zablocki Veterans Medical Center. All parties agreed for a recommendation of national significance for this property. For further information the reader should refer to the following:

Charles W. Causier, "National Register of Historic Places Nomination Form--Soldier's Home Reef." (Milwaukee, Wisconsin: State Historical Society, 1992).

SOLDIERS' HOME REEF

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

Page 8

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

HISTORY

Anomalous mound-like rock features associated with normal flat-lying, bedded rocks were long viewed with curiosity by early geologists around the world, but their origin remained controversial. Not until the mid-nineteenth century were these features correctly interpreted as ancient fossil reefs, a concept which represents an important advancement in geological theory. Soldiers' Home Reef, along with two other mound-like rock features in the Menomonee River valley near Milwaukee, Wisconsin, played the key role in the first recognition and interpretation of fossil reefs in North America, and, therefore, possesses national significance in the history of science.² These reefs were further used to establish a model for ancient reef development, and they served as primary examples of such features in geology text books and geological research for well over 100 years.

During Wisconsin's early settlement, these conspicuous rock hills projecting out from the Menomonee River banks were quickly recognized as a source of lime for construction, and two of them have long since been destroyed or greatly altered by quarrying. Only the Soldiers' Home Reef remains virtually undisturbed since that time, even though it was the most prominent of the rock mounds, because it had become a focal point of the park-like National Soldiers' Home grounds in the 1860s. Wisconsin's eminent pioneer naturalist Increase Allen Lapham was the first to take note of these unusual rock mounds in the 1830s. He discovered a great abundance and diversity of fossils, including corals, which he noticed contrasted sharply with the low diversity and rarity of fossils in the local well-bedded rock (rocks that were deposited as layers of sediment) strata used for building stone, but he concluded erroneously that the masses were erosional remnants of a once more extensive rock unit overlying the well-bedded rock.

Considered Wisconsin's first scientist, Lapham is known for numerous contributions to many fields of natural history besides geology, including meteorology, cartography, botany, zoology, and archaeology.³ Born in Palmyra, New York, on March 7, 1811,

² Mikulic, D.G. and J. Kluessendorf, Preliminary report on the scientific, educational, and historical importance of Soldier's Home Reef, Milwaukee County, Wisconsin, Submitted to the Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources, 1991.

³ Biographical Information about Lapham was taken from the following sources:

Sherman, S. S. Increase A. Lapham, LL.D., a biographical sketch read before the Old Settler's Club, Milwaukee: News Printers Company, 1876.

Bean, E. F. "Increase A. Lapham, geologist," Wisconsin Archeologist, Vol., 1, pp. 79-96.

SOLDIERS' HOME REEF**Page 9**

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

Lapham developed his life-long interest in geology while working as a stone-cutter on the Erie Canal as a youth. He wrote his first geologic paper in 1828, when he was only 17 years old and a canal engineer at the Falls of the Ohio. In 1836, Lapham was called to Milwaukee by one of its earliest and most prominent citizens, Byron Kilbourn, to become chief engineer and secretary of the Milwaukee and Rock River Canal Company. Soon after his arrival, Lapham began to study the geology of the area, looking for economically important rock and mineral deposits. In 1844, he published a 250-page volume entitled *A geographical and topographical description of Wisconsin*, with brief sketches of its history, geology, mineralogy, natural history, population, soil, productions, government, antiquities, etc., which served as a handbook for new settlers for many years. By 1851, based on his geologic studies and James Hall's identification of his fossils, Lapham had been able to determine the stratigraphic succession of rock units in Milwaukee, define the general Paleozoic stratigraphic section for eastern Wisconsin, and establish correlation with the New York rock section.⁴

Interested in the public welfare throughout his life, Lapham was involved in establishing several local educational and scientific organizations, including the Wisconsin Academy of Sciences, Arts and Letters, the Wisconsin Agricultural Society, the Wisconsin Geological Survey, the Wisconsin Historical Society, and the Milwaukee Female College. In 1873, Lapham was appointed head of the Wisconsin Geological Survey, and he quickly assembled a noteworthy staff of young geologists, including T.C. Chamberlin and Roland Irving. He was replaced as head of the Survey by a political appointee of the new governor in 1875, and died a few months later on September 14th. Lapham's natural history collection, which included 10,000 fossils, minerals, shells, meteorites, and Indian relics was purchased for the University of Wisconsin, where it was destroyed in an 1884 fire. Soldiers' Home Reef, however, remains much the same as when Lapham undertook the first geologic studies of the area.

When Lapham was attempting to correlate the age of rocks in southeastern Wisconsin with the stratigraphic (chronological sequence of rock layers with oldest at bottom and youngest at top) reference section already determined for New York State during the early 1840s, he sent fossil specimens to the famous paleontologist James Hall, of the New York Geological Survey, for identification. His interest piqued by Lapham's fossils, Hall made several visits to the Milwaukee area in the 1850s to study the local geology. On the basis of this work, Hall became the first, in an 1862 publication, to recognize the Menomonee River

⁴ Lapham, I. A. *On the geology of the southeastern portion of the State of Wisconsin being part not surveyed by the United States geologists, in a letter to J. W. Foster by I. A. Lapham of Milwaukee.* In J. W. Foster and J. D. Whitney, *Report on the geology of the Lake Superior land district, part 2.* U.S. 32nd Congress, Spec. Session, Senate Executive Document No. 4, pp. 167-177.

SOLDIERS' HOME REEF

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

Page 10

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

valley mounds as fossil coral reefs, making them the first fossil reefs recognized in all of North America and among the first anywhere in the world. Hall noted that his interpretation of the reef origin of these features was based in part on their appearance as isolated hills or ridges of Coralline limestone that contrasted with the surrounding flat-lying, well-bedded rocks. He recognized that these hills were not erosional remnants of formerly continuous rock units, as thought by Lapham, but that they were individual reefs.

The interpretation of fossil reefs was one of the most important accomplishments for James Hall, perhaps the most eminent paleontologist and geologist in North America during the mid to late nineteenth century. Born in Hingham, Massachusetts, on September 12, 1811, Hall was introduced to science and natural history by his local public school teacher.⁵ In 1830, Hall enrolled in the recently established Rensselaer Institute in Troy, New York, where Amos Eaton and Ebenezer Emmons, two of the country's leading geologists, became his mentors. Four years after his graduation in 1832, Hall became the youngest geologist on the New York Geological Survey staff, and in only a few years more, he established a reputation as one of nation's leading geologists and paleontologists. While working on an exhaustive paleontological survey of New York, Hall also served as State geologist of Iowa and Wisconsin in the mid-1800s. In 1866, Hall was appointed director of the New York State Museum, and, in 1893, the position of State Geologist of New York was created especially for him. Through much of his career, Hall was active in scientific societies, being a founder of the Association of American Geologists and the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and serving as a charter member of the National Academy of Sciences. He was the first president of the Geological Society of America, president of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, and a three-time vice-president of the International Congress of Geologists. A prolific researcher and publisher, Hall had formulated the concepts of geosynclines (tectonically subsiding trough related to mountain building and plate tectonics) and fossil reefs, and had produced 15 quarto volumes containing more than 4000 pages of text and more than 1000 paleontological plates by the time of his death on August 7, 1898. He also trained many students who would become some of the most prominent geologists and paleontologists in North America.

⁵ Biographical information on James Hall was taken from the following sources:

Fenton, Carroll Land, and Mildred Adams Fenton. Giants of Geology. (New York: Doubleday & Company, 1952).

Clark, John M. James Hall of Albany, geologist and paleontologist 1811-1898. (Albany, New York: Arno Press Reprint, 1978).

SOLDIERS' HOME REEF

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

Page 11

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

Hall's interpretation of the Milwaukee reefs was expanded upon by Thomas Crowder Chamberlin, the renowned American geologist and educator. Chamberlin's research on the bedrock geology and reefs of Wisconsin was very innovative and influential. He recognized that these reefs contained fossils and rock types different from surrounding contemporaneous bedded rocks, and that individual reefs differed among themselves, and, in so doing, pioneered the study of reef paleoecology. In 1877, when Chamberlin, then State Geologist of Wisconsin, published his classic study of Wisconsin Silurian reefs, he focused on the Milwaukee County reef examples, again emphasizing their mound-like structure: "Near Milwaukee there are three mounds or ridges of rock that have attracted much attention, and which seem to be regarded as exceptional phenomena..."⁶

Born on a prairie homestead near Mattoon, Illinois, on September 25, 1843, Chamberlin was only two years old when his family moved to the frontier near Beloit, Wisconsin.⁷ After attending the district grammar school, Chamberlin continued his education at Beloit College where he became interested in science under the tutelage of Professor Henry Nason, a well-travelled chemist and mineralogist. Graduating in 1866, Chamberlin taught high school in Delavan, Wisconsin, for two years, and then did graduate work under the geologist Alexander Winchell at the University of Michigan. From 1869 to 1873, Chamberlin taught natural science at the State Normal School in Whitewater, Wisconsin. He then returned to Beloit College as a faculty member, and in 1880, became its first Professor of Geology. While at Beloit, Chamberlin also worked for the Wisconsin Geological Survey, being appointed State Geologist in 1876. He made an exhaustive study of the bedrock and glacial geology of southeastern Wisconsin at this time. The experience he gained in this research made Chamberlin the leading American glacial geologist, and in 1881, Chamberlin was appointed to head the newly formed Glacial Division of the United States Geological Survey, for which he conducted field work across the United States. While continuing his work for the USGS, Chamberlin became president of the University of Wisconsin in 1887, where he is credited with transforming the institution from a college into a university. He left this position in 1892 to establish the Department of Geology at the newly-founded University of Chicago, where he remained until his retirement in 1919. In addition to his reef and glacial work, Chamberlin is noted for his method of multiple working hypotheses, which he formulated while at the University

⁶ T. C. Chamberlain, *Geology of Eastern Wisconsin* (Madison: David Atwood, 1877). p. 365.

⁷ The biographical information on Thomas Chamberlin was taken from the following sources: Schultz, S. F. "Thomas C. Chamberlin: the Kettle Moraine and multiple glaciation". *Wisconsin Academy of Sciences, Arts and Letters Transactions*, Vol. 67, pp. 135-148; Chamberlain, R. T. "Thomas Crowder Chamberlain, 1843-1928". *National Academy of Science Biographical Memoir*, Vol. 15, Mem. 11, 1934, pp. 305-407.

SOLDIERS' HOME REEF

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

Page 12

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

of Wisconsin in 1889, and for the planetesimal hypothesis he devised with Forest Moulton at the University of Chicago, which was considered a leading theory for the origin of the solar system at the time of Chamberlin's death in 1928.

During the early twentieth century, several other prominent geologists, including W.C. Alden and Cecil Kindle, also studied the Soldiers' Home Reef, and it was last described in the scientific literature by Robert R. Shrock in his classic 1939 reef study.⁸ These geologists all emphasized, in both their field notes and publications, the mound-like appearance of Soldiers' Home Reef in contrast to the surrounding flat-lying rocks more typical for the area.

In addition to its ancient reef origin, its role in the area's glacial history was recognized at this time by Ernst Bruncken. Because of its mound-like reef structure and the erosion-resistant nature of the reef rock, the Soldiers' Home Reef was carved into a *roche moutonnée* (glacially abraded rock knob) by glaciers during the Pleistocene Epoch of the Quaternary Period (last geologic time until before the Recent), perhaps during the last stage of glaciation. This is the best undisturbed *roche moutonnée* remaining in the area.

Soldiers' Home Reef has remained virtually unchanged for more than 150 years within a large metropolitan area. The two other rock features used to define the important fossil reef concept have been severely altered by quarrying, leaving only the Soldiers' Home Reef as it was when the mid-19th-century geologists visited the area. This is the only remaining site where one may view the actual features originally used by the early geologists to formulate the fossil reef concept, and as such, Soldiers' Home Reef is essential to our understanding of the development of this important geological idea. This historical understanding is critical to refining basic geologic concepts as they change and evolve. The site will also continue to stimulate new studies especially as it has not yet been studied thoroughly using modern methods. Because the other two reefs have been mostly destroyed and covered by urban development, it is also the only intact reef that is accessible for rock-coring and geophysical and seismic studies. Furthermore, by being located within a major metropolitan area and so readily accessible, Soldiers' Home Reef holds exceptional potential for public education in both the history of science and geological phenomena. Soldiers' Home Reef, therefore, contributes fundamentally to our understanding of Earth history and the development of basic geological concepts, and as it continues to be important to fossil reef studies, it may yield important additional information during future study.

⁸ Shrock, R. R. "Wisconsin Silurian bioherms (organic reefs)". Geological Society of America Bulletin, Vol. 50, 1939, pp. 529-562.

SOLDIERS' HOME REEF

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

Page 13

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Andreas, A. T. *History of Milwaukee, Wisconsin*. The Western Historical Society, 1881. p. 766.

Bean, E. F. *Increase A. Lapham, geologist*. Wisconsin Archeologist, 1936. vol. 16, p 79-96.

Bleyer, Henry W. *Origin of the Milwaukee Soldiers' Home*. Illustrated News Annual, published by George H. Yenowine, 1892-93. p. 53.

Bruncken, Ernst. *Quaternary deposits and bedrock*. Bulletin of Wisconsin Natural History Society, vol. 1, no. 2, 1900. p. 98-99.

Causier, Charles W. "National Register of Historic Places Inventory Nomination Form--Soldier's Home Reef." Milwaukee, Wisconsin: State Historical Society, 1992.

Chamberlin, T. C. *Geology of Eastern Wisconsin*. Survey of 1873-1877, Volume II. David Atwood, Madison, 1877.

Clarke, John M. *James Hall of Albany, geologist and paleontologist 1811-1898*. Privately printed, Albany. Arno Press Reprint, 1978.

Fenton, Carroll Lane, and Mildred Adams Fenton. *Giants of Geology*. Doubleday & Company, New York, 1952.

Hall, James, and J. D. Whitney. *Report of the Geological Survey of the State of Wisconsin*, Volume 1. 1862. Printed by authority of the State Legislature of Wisconsin.

Lapham, I. A. *Miscellaneous correspondence and geological field notes, 1830s-1870s*.

Mikulic D. G. and J. Kluessendorf. *Preliminary report on the scientific, educational, and historical importance of the Soldier's Home Reef, Milwaukee County, Wisconsin*. 1991. Submitted to Wisconsin Department of Natural Resources.

Schultz, S. F. *Thomas C. Chamberlin: The Kettle Moraine and multiple glaciation*. Wisconsin Academy of Sciences, Arts and Letters Transactions, vol. 67, 1979. p. 135-148.

Sherman, S.S. *Increase A. Lapham, LL.D., a biographical sketch read before the Old Settlers' Club, Milwaukee News Company Printers, Milwaukee, 1876*.

Shrock, R. R. *Wisconsin Silurian bioherms (organic reefs)*. Geological Society of America Bulletin, vol. 50, 1939. p. 529-562.

SOLDIERS' HOME REEF

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

Page 14

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

Soldier's Home Reef Geological Investigations, Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Submitted to Howard Needles Tammen and Bergendoff. 1992.

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

____ Preliminary Determination of Individual Listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested.
____ Previously Listed in the National Register.
X ____ Previously Determined Eligible by the National Register.
____ Designated a National Historic Landmark.
____ Recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey: # _____
____ Recorded by Historic American Engineering Record: # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data:

X ____ State Historic Preservation Office
____ Other State Agency
____ Federal Agency
____ Local Government
____ University
____ Other (Specify Repository):

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Acreage of Property: 3.5 Acres

UTM References: Zone Northing Easting Zone Northing Easting

A	16	420450	4764170	B	16	420550	4764230
C	16	420630	4764170	D	16	420700	4764050

Verbal Boundary Description:

Soldiers' Home Reef is a rock hill on the south bluff of the Menomonee River valley in the SE1/4, NW1/4. NE1/4, Section 35, T7N, R21E, Wauwatosa Township, Milwaukee 7.5' quadrangle, Clement J. Zablocki Veterans Affairs Center, Milwaukee, Milwaukee County, Wisconsin, approximately 300 feet south of the Milwaukee County Stadium. The boundary follows the north and east face of the reef for approximately 560 feet and then back about 250 feet from that face as shown on the accompanying map, labeled "Soldiers' Home Reef: Veterans' Administration," by Howard, Needles, Tammen & Bergendoff.

Boundary Justification:

All boundaries except the southern one correspond to the natural edge of the reef outcrop exposed above surrounding ground level. East and west boundaries were selected as they correspond to the topographic boundary of the hill containing the reef. The boundary includes the exposed face of the reef and extends backward a distance likely to include the entire reef structure based on seismic testing.

SOLDIERS' HOME REEF

United States Department of the Interior, National Park Service

Page 15

National Register of Historic Places Registration Form

11. FORM PREPARED BY

Name/Title: Dr. Joanne Klussendorf
Dr. Donald G. Mikulic

Org.: University of Illinois
Geology Department

Street/#: 1301 West Green Street
116 West McHenry Street

City/Town: Urbana, Illinois

State: Illinois

ZIP: 61801

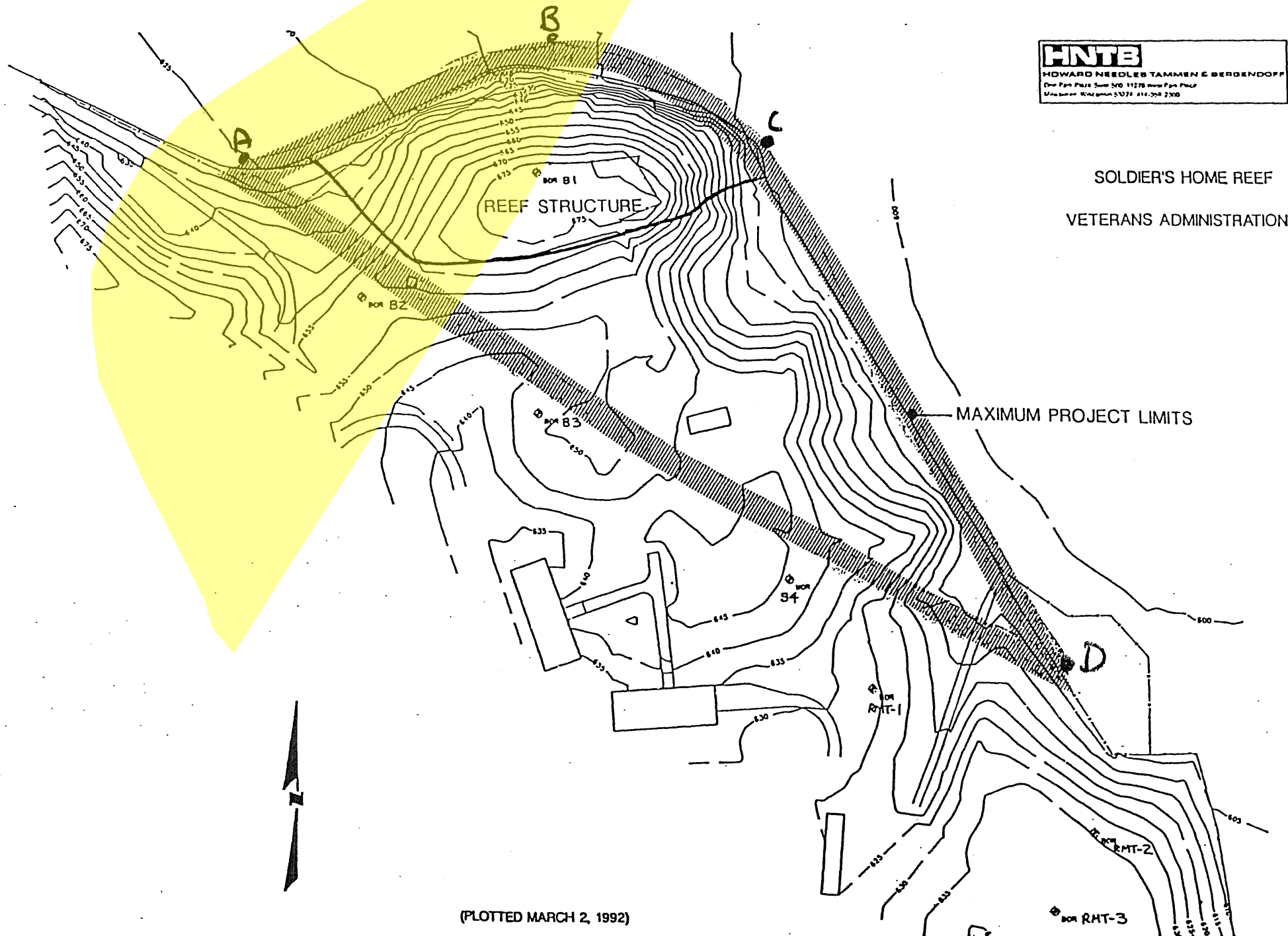
Telephone: 217/333-1149 (Mikulic)
217/367-5916 (Klussendorf)

Date: April 1. 1993

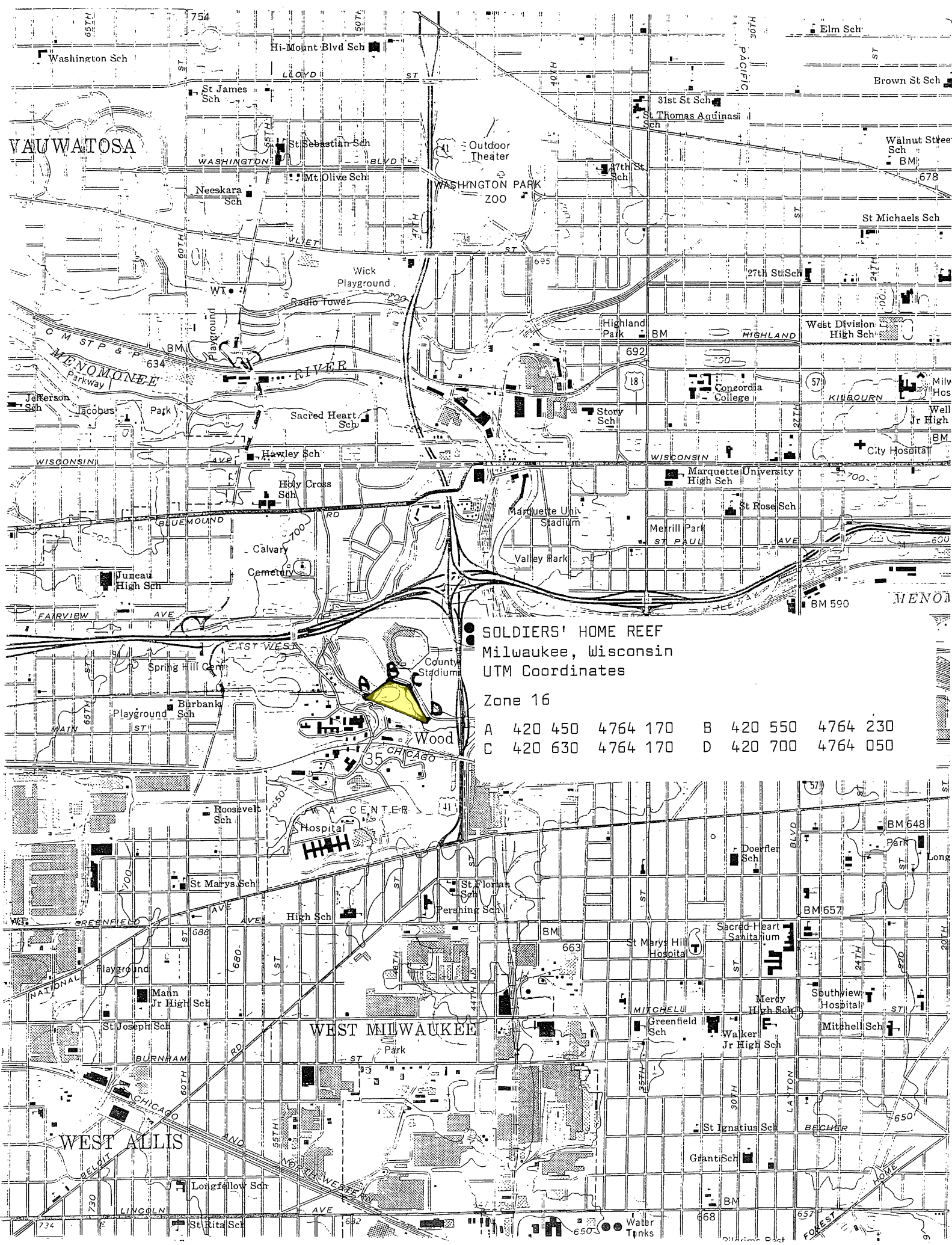
Boundaries for the Soldier's Home Reef NHL



SOLDIER'S HOME REEF
VETERANS ADMINISTRATION



(PLOTTED MARCH 2, 1992)



● SOLDIERS' HOME REEF
Milwaukee, Wisconsin
UTM Coordinates

Zone 16

A	420 450	4764 170	B	420 550	4764 230
C	420 630	4764 170	D	420 700	4764 050



Soldiers Home Reef
Milwaukee, Wisconsin
View from Northeast
Photo: C. Causier, February, 1992



Soldiers Home Reef
Milwaukee, Wisconsin
View from Southeast
Photo: C. Causier, February, 1992



**Soldiers Home Reef
Milwaukee, Wisconsin
View from East
Photo: C. Causier, February, 1992**



Soldiers Home Reef
Milwaukee, Wisconsin
View from Southeast
Photo: C. Causier, February, 1992



Soldiers Home Reef
Milwaukee, Wisconsin
View from Northeast
Photo: C. Causier, February, 1992



**Soldiers Home Reef
Milwaukee, Wisconsin
Close-up of North Face
Photo: C. Causier, February, 1992**



Soldiers Home Reef
Milwaukee, Wisconsin
Close-up of Southeast Face
Photo: C. Causier, February, 1992



Soldiers Home Reef
Milwaukee, Wisconsin
View from Southwest (top of Reef)
Photo: C. Causier, February, 1992



**Soldiers Home Reef
Milwaukee, Wisconsin
View from West (top of Reef)
Photo: C. Causier, February, 1992**